

## New York sues billionaire family behind maker of OxyContin

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and JENNIFER PELTZ

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — New York is suing the billionaire family behind the company that created OxyContin, joining a growing list of state and local governments seeking to hold not only the firm but its owners accountable for the nation's opioid crisis.

The state, which averages nine opioid-related deaths per day, on Thursday expanded an existing lawsuit against pill maker Purdue Pharma to add members of its controlling Sackler family as defendants. Five other companies that produce opioid painkillers and four drug distributors, which buy medications in bulk and sell them to pharmacies, were also added as defendants. "This is an extensive lawsuit that leaves no stone unturned," New York Attorney General Letitia James, a Democrat, said at a news conference.

While other states and localities have filed similar suits, New York is taking some novel approaches, such as seeking to bar the companies from market-



In this Aug. 17, 2018 file photo, family and friends who have lost loved ones to OxyContin and opioid overdoses leave pill bottles in protest outside the headquarters of Purdue Pharma, which is owned by the Sackler family, in Stamford, Conn.

Associated Press

ing and distributing painkillers in New York unless they abide by strict safeguards. The suit claims drug manu-

facturers collaborated to falsely deny the serious risks of opioid addiction, and it accuses drug distributors

of skirting systems meant to limit orders for painkillers. Distributors even helped pharmacies game the sys-

tem to evade the caps, the lawsuit alleges.

Continued on Next Page



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**OXYCONTIN**

**Continued from Front**

But at the heart of the case are Purdue and the Sacklers, whom James called "the masterminds behind this crisis."

The suit, like others filed elsewhere, alleges aggressive marketing of OxyContin beginning in the mid-1990s led to massive over-prescribing and a scourge of dependency, addiction and death. Once the pills ran out, the lawsuit alleges, many patients craving the same effects turned to cheaper, more potent alternatives: heroin and fentanyl.

Representatives for Purdue and Sackler family members said the suit misleadingly blames them for a problem that's far bigger than OxyContin.

"The state is seeking to publicly vilify Purdue" and the Sacklers with ill-supported claims about a drug that currently accounts for under 2 percent of all opioid prescriptions, the Stamford, Connecticut-based company said in a statement.

The Sackler relatives named in the suit — all former Purdue board members who remain shareholders — said in a statement issued

through a spokeswoman that they "have always acted properly."

They and the company said they would fight the new allegations, which come two days after Purdue and the Sacklers agreed to pay \$270 million to the state of Oklahoma to settle an opioid lawsuit there. In settling the case, Purdue denied any wrongdoing.

It was the first settlement in a recent wave of nearly 2,000 lawsuits that the company says could push it into bankruptcy. New York, in its lawsuit, accused the Sacklers of pulling hundreds of millions of dollars from the company because of potentially costly litigation.

James, the New York attorney general, said she was open to settlement talks but hadn't been approached. In addition to potentially banning the companies from selling the drugs, her lawsuit seeks penalties and damages that could add up to tens of millions of dollars and a dedicated fund to curb the opioid epidemic.

Since 2013, opioid-related deaths statewide have more than doubled, and there's been a 30-fold increase in fentanyl-related



**In this Aug. 17, 2018 file photo, family and friends who have lost loved ones to OxyContin and opioid overdoses protest outside Purdue Pharma headquarters in Stamford, Conn.**

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deaths in New York City, according to the lawsuit. It accuses the companies of deliberately betraying their duties under state drug laws "in order to profiteer from the plague they knew would be unleashed."

New Yorker Justin Sangeorge says he experienced that plague firsthand after having a dental procedure, getting an opioid prescription and becoming addicted.

"I couldn't believe how readily available pharmaceutical drugs were," said the social worker, who has gotten treatment, is now recovering and spoke at a news conference with James.

"We hold accountable drug dealers, drug traffickers, I know, but the pharmaceutical companies hide behind this legitimate enterprise, and as far as I'm concerned, are just as guilty as a drug trafficker or a drug cartel," Sangeorge said. The suit accuses Purdue in particular of downplaying addiction risks and pushing doctors to increase dosages even as the dangers became known, the lawsuit said. Some of the company's marketing tactics included hiring a respected New York City doctor to tout the drug and

sending representatives on more than a million sales visits to doctors' offices, the lawsuit said.

Richard Sackler, then senior vice president responsible for sales, proudly told the audience at an OxyContin launch party in 1996 that it would create a "blizzard of prescriptions that will bury the competition," the lawsuit said.

Purdue and the Sacklers have said they're committed to trying to stem opioid addiction, including through the Oklahoma settlement. It includes \$75 million from the Sacklers, though they weren't personally sued in that case.

Nearly \$200 million of the money will go toward establishing a National Center for Addiction Studies and Treatment at Oklahoma State University in Tulsa. The Sacklers have given tens of millions of dollars to New York City cultural institutions. Several members of the family own multimillion-dollar Manhattan apartments. One has a \$5 million Long Island estate.

In the past few weeks, as the accusations against the family have mounted, the Tate museums in London and the Guggenheim Museum in New York have cut ties with the family,

and other institutions have come under pressure to turn down donations or remove the Sackler name.

The other defendants in New York's lawsuit are: Johnson & Johnson and Janssen Pharmaceuticals; U.K.-based Mallinckrodt plc, which has an opioid manufacturing plant in Hobart, New York; Dublin-based Endo and Allergan; Israeli pharmaceutical company Teva and the drug distributors McKesson, AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health and Rochester Drug Cooperative Inc.

Endo said in a statement that it denies the allegations in the lawsuit and intends to vigorously defend itself. Cardinal Health said it has a "rigorous system" to track pharmacy orders and has stopped suspicious orders for hundreds of millions of painkiller pills over the last decade. In a statement, the Dublin, Ohio-based company said: "Our people operate in good faith, and our goal is to get it right." McKesson had no specific response to the New York suit but said it has "strong programs" to try to prevent opioid abuse. The other companies declined comment or did not immediately respond to requests for it. □



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## Billionaire's climate-change fight includes Wyoming research

By MEAD GRUVER

**CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP)** — A British billionaire who's a major contributor to environmental causes, including fighting climate change, will fund carbon-capture research in Wyoming, the top U.S. coal-mining state. Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon and Carbontech Labs announced Thursday they're providing \$1.25 million to help researchers find ways to turn greenhouse-gas emissions from coal-fired power plants into products that can be sold for a profit. "One of the opportunities here, from a policy standpoint I think, is what is really, truly going to remove carbon from our atmosphere?" said Gordon, a Republican. Carbontech Labs, a research accelerator created by Oakland, California-based nonprofit Carbon180, will provide \$1 million. Wyoming is contributing \$250,000.

Carbon180 got the \$1 million from a trust started by Jeremy Grantham, who built his wealth as an investor and co-founded the Boston-based investment firm Grantham Mayo Van Otterloo. The Jeremy and Hannelore Grantham Environmental Trust reported almost \$200 million in assets to the IRS in 2016. Those funded through the Wyoming program will test their carbon-capture proposals at a coal-fired power plant in the Powder River Basin, the top coal-producing region in the U.S. and home to several enormous open-pit coal mines. The initiative links two men who have very different ways of talking about climate change. "Fossil fuels will either run out, destroy the planet, or both. The only possible way to avoid this outcome is rapid and complete decarbonization of our economy. Needless to say, this is

an extremely difficult thing to pull off," Grantham said in a speech last June at the Morningstar Investment Conference in Chicago. Grantham said he is "all in" on climate change and toxic environmental damage and has 98 percent of his net worth in two foundations dedicated to those causes. A person who answered the phone at the Jeremy and Hannelore Grantham Environmental Trust said the trust would not comment on the Wyoming announcement. Gordon, meanwhile, has been less than strident on the issue of fossil fuels and climate change. He declined to answer Thursday whether he thought climate change was human-caused and an urgent problem, though he acknowledged seeing its signs. "I have been a mountaineer all my life. I have seen glaciers in our mountains



In this July 27, 2018, file photo, the Dave Johnson coal-fired power plant is silhouetted against the morning sun in Glenrock, Wyo.

Associated Press

that have started to recede," Gordon said. Revenue from Wyoming's coal, oil and natural gas industries provide a huge share of the state budget — over half in some years. Lately wavering revenue from fossil-fuel extraction, especially coal, has forced state officials to make major cuts and reconsider

where the state gets its money. That in mind, state officials have been keen to secure a viable future for its coal industry roiled by several recent, major bankruptcies. Wyoming contributed \$15 million to build a carbon-capture test facility at Basin Electric's Dry Fork Station near Gillette. □



## Dems demand Mueller's full 300 pages, mock 'scaredy-cat' GOP

By LISA MASCARO, LAURIE KELLMAN and MARY CLARE JALONICK

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Special counsel Robert Mueller's Trump-Russia report is more than 300 pages long, it was revealed Thursday, sparking fresh criticism from Democrats arguing that Attorney General William Barr's four-page summary was gravely inadequate and the full findings must be quickly released.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called Barr's synopsis that cleared President Donald Trump of campaign collusion with Russia

and criminal obstruction of the federal probe "condescending" and "arrogant."

"Mr. Attorney General, we do not need your interpretation," Pelosi said Thursday. "Show us the report and we'll come to our own conclusions." She mocked the administration and Republicans as "scaredy-cats."

The length of Mueller's confidential report makes clear that there are substantially more details he and his team have documented in their investigation than Barr disclosed to Congress and the public in his summary. The volume of pages was



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi heaps scorn on Attorney General William Barr, saying his letter about special counsel Robert Mueller's report was "condescending," after Barr concluded there was no evidence that President Donald Trump's campaign "conspired or coordinated" with the Russian government to influence the 2016 election, during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, March 28, 2019.

Associated Press

described Thursday by a Justice Department official and another person familiar with the document.

The Justice Department official said Barr discussed the length of the report during a phone call Wednesday with House Judiciary Committee Chairman Rep. Jerrold Nadler.

Both the department official and the other person spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the confidential report.

Barr has been at work going through the document as the battle is intensifying over if and when he will release the complete report and its underlying evidence amid Democratic concerns that what has been made public so far was tilted in Trump's favor. Barr has said he'll release at least a partial version in April and also told Nadler he would agree to testify before his committee.

As that battle brews, House Democrats barreled ahead with their oversight of the

Trump administration, and Trump resumed his attack on Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., just as the chairman of the intelligence committee was about to gavel the panel into session.

"Congressman Adam Schiff, who spent two years knowingly and unlawfully lying and leaking, should be forced to resign from Congress!" Trump tweeted early Thursday.

Republicans picking up on Trump's complaints formalized their demand that Schiff resign as chairman of the intelligence panel over his comments that there was significant evidence the president and his associates conspired with Russia. "We have no faith in your ability to discharge your responsibilities" in line with the Constitution, the Republicans wrote to Schiff in a missive they read aloud at the hearing.

Republicans pointed to Barr's synopsis, released Sunday, that said Mueller's probe didn't find that Trump's campaign "conspired or coordinated" with the Russian government to influence the 2016 presidential election.

Schiff stood by his remarks, listing the meetings those in Trump's circle had with Russians. He noted Trump's pursuit of a deal to build a Trump Tower in Moscow.

"There is a different word for that than collusion, and it's called compromise," Schiff said, as he opened the session. The hearing was called to provide an overview on how Russia in the past has blackmailed Americans. □



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**Taxpayers are asked to support falcons, fight pigeon poop**

By BOB SALSBERG

**BOSTON (AP)** — Along with all the usual declarations and deductions, Massachusetts residents have been asked to keep something else in mind this tax season: pigeon droppings. In an unusual and at times stomach-turning appeal, the state agency Mass-Wildlife proposed that one way to fight back against the sticky messes befouling cars and damaging bridges is for taxpayers to check a box on their tax forms to support the state's endangered species program. How so? Peregrine falcons are among the program's beneficiaries, and they prey on pigeons. "Hate pigeon poop? Save peregrine falcons," begins the message on the agency's website and in a recent newsletter. It goes on to picture a typical motorist driving home from work over one of the state's major bridges.

"You're thinking about dinner as you wait in traffic when — PLOP! — something white and black falls onto your windshield," the post continues. Next comes a scientific breakdown of the bird droppings that includes an explanation — for inquiring minds that need to know — of the precise difference between the dark and white portions.

And then, lest the reader believe it's all no more than a yucky nuisance, this warning: "This paste-like substance is so acidic and corrosive, that it can damage your car's paint job. And you guessed it, groups of birds all going to the bathroom in the same place can make man-made structures like bridges deteriorate faster." Enter the peregrine falcon, a magnificent predator

that can attain speeds of 240 mph (385 kmh) in high-elevation dives, no match for the slower and less agile pigeon, which just so happens to be one of the peregrine's favorite feasts. Peregrine falcons disappeared from Massachusetts in the mid-1950s and soon after the entire eastern U.S., their demise largely blamed on the pesticide DDT, according to the state's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. After the chemical was banned, efforts picked up to reintroduce the raptor, sometimes confused with more common varieties of hawk.

To the surprise of some ornithologists, many of the newcomers eschewed their former rural habitats and became city dwellers. Instead of on cliffs, they began nesting on tall building ledges and bridges in urban areas where food sources — pigeons, especially — were more plentiful. To help the falcons along, state officials and volunteers placed nesting boxes in strategic locations such as the Custom House Tower in Boston, the 28-story W.E.B. Du Bois Library at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and the heavily traveled Tobin Bridge spanning the Mystic River. "Falcon cams" were even installed to offer a continuous livestream of peregrine comings and goings.

The restoration effort is partially funded by voluntarily donations from taxpayers, who can choose to contribute to "endangered wildlife conservation" on their state returns. The money supports more than 400 threatened or endangered plants and animals, from bog turtles to timber rattlesnakes, but



In this March 13, 2018 file photo, pigeons sit on a fence at Hancock Shaker Village, in Pittsfield, Mass.

Associated Press

the peregrine falcon is easily among the most "charismatic," said David Paulson, senior endangered species biologist for MassWildlife. Contributions to the fund have been increasing but remain well below levels needed, according to state officials and wildlife experts. About 23,000 taxpayers gave \$312,000 through the tax check-off in 2017, the last full year for which figures were available, compared with the \$178,000 provided by approximately 18,000 taxpayers in 2013. It's not just bird lovers and conservationists embracing the slow but steady revival of the peregrine falcons.

State transportation engineers have noticed a reduction in the pigeon population on bridges with nesting falcons, officials said. Fewer pigeons means less waste building up on bridge surfaces, rusting the steel and increasing the costs for maintenance and bridge replacement. "It's almost like a symbiotic relationship," Paulson said. "The structure provides the

habitat, and the falcons kind of provide the pest management, for lack of a better term." Officials hope drivers when completing their tax forms will also see the peregrine as a feathered friend that can make an unwanted splattering a bit less likely. The falcons "are never going to eliminate (pigeons), but they can help to manage them," Paulson said. □



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# California justice calls death penalty system dysfunctional

By **SUDHIN THANAWALA**  
Associated Press

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** —

The death penalty system in the nation's most populous state is dysfunctional and expensive, and a ballot measure approved by voters to speed up executions will not make it workable, a California Supreme Court justice said Thursday in an unusual opinion that added to a renewed debate about capital punishment.

Associate Justice Goodwin Liu made the comments two weeks after Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom placed a moratorium on executions and said he is advocating for the repeal of capital punishment in California.

Liu said he was not expressing any view on the morality or constitutionality of the death penalty and would continue to uphold capital sentences when required by law. He joined the rest of the justices to unanimously affirm the death sentence of Thomas Potts, who was convicted of killing an elderly couple in 1997.

But in a separate opinion in that case, Liu expressed concerns about the death penalty system in California and Proposition 66, a 2016 ballot measure that aimed to remove regulatory hurdles to executions.

Voters narrowly approved the measure while rejecting a competing effort to ban the death penalty.



In this Jan. 13, 2017 file photo California Supreme Court Associate Justice Goodwin Liu pauses in his office in San Francisco.

The state Supreme Court upheld Proposition 66 in 2017, including Liu, who expressed some concerns in that decision but went further in his new opinion.

The measure did not enact the "key reforms that leading authorities consider fundamental to a workable death penalty system," Liu wrote in Thursday's opinion, which Associate Justice Mariano Florentino-Cuellar joined.

Former Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown appointed both justices.

The measure did not reduce the backup of direct death penalty appeals at

the state Supreme Court or provide additional resources to appoint qualified attorneys for inmates or allow courts to expedite capital cases, Liu said.

Its promise that death penalty cases would be completely settled in the courts in five years was "more than the system can deliver," he said.

Without additional funding for the court system, the measure cannot reach its goals, Liu said.

He added that "the promise of justice in our death penalty system is a promise that California has been unable to keep" and a discussion

on the effectiveness and cost of capital punishment was overdue.

Opponents say Proposition 66 does address the bottleneck of death penalty cases at the state Supreme Court by moving a big chunk of them to lower courts.

Kent Scheidegger, legal director of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation, which has been fighting to force the state to resume executions, also disputed Liu's claim that the measure required additional funding.

"The notion that massive additional resources are

the answer is a fabrication of the opponents created to bolster their argument that we should repeal the death penalty because it costs too much," he said in an email.

California has the nation's largest death row, with 737 inmates. Only 13 people have been executed since 1978 — the last in 2006. Condemned inmates are more likely to die of old age during decades of appeals.

Newsom praised Liu's opinion in a statement Thursday. When he signed the moratorium this month, the governor said the death penalty is applied unevenly and that innocent people can find themselves on death row.

He said he also may commute death sentences and is pushing to ban capital punishment. Fellow Democratic lawmakers introduced a ballot measure that would repeal the death penalty next year.

Critics, including President Donald Trump, accused Newsom of usurping voters' will. Some said his decision could face legal challenges. In a poll released Thursday by the Public Policy Institute of California, just 38 percent of likely voters favored the death penalty when asked whether someone convicted of first-degree murder should get a death sentence or life in prison with no possibility of parole. □

Associated Press

## Sticky fingers: Syrup maker says 140 sap buckets were stolen

By **LISA RATHKE**  
Associated Press

**ST. ALBANS, Vt. (AP)** — One Vermont maple syrup maker's season isn't so sweet after 140 of his sap-collecting buckets were stolen off maple trees.

The thief or thieves struck twice at two different spots along a road in the northwestern part of the state, making off with the steel buckets, according to Fred Hopkins, of St. Albans.

The first time, there was no sap flowing yet, but the second time the perpetrators dumped out the liquid.

All that was left behind was the clear, frozen sap on the ground.

"We kind of think it's someone who needed extra buckets because they're not worth anything in the junkyard," said Hopkins, 70, who says they can be had for between \$1 and \$10.

After hearing media reports about the heists, a couple in a nearby town offered to lend Hopkins steel buckets. They stopped by earlier this week, along with the police officer investigating the crime, to help Hopkins install 45 buckets.

St. Albans Police Cpl. Keith McMahon said he hears of things being stolen all the time, including lawn equipment and even farm equipment, but never sap buckets and twice at that. "It didn't sit well with me to begin with," he said Thursday, "but it made it even worse" that the theft happened twice.

Hopkins and his wife Maureen Lake have also heard from the county maple syrup makers association, a maple equipment dealer and another maple syrup maker offering help. □



In this Wednesday, March 27, 2019 photo, maple syrup maker Fred Hopkins, left, and his wife Maureen Lake stand next to sap-collecting buckets in St. Albans, Vt., lent to him after 140 of his buckets were stolen off trees.

Associated Press



# Seattle bus driver shot in torso gets passengers to safety

By LISA BAUMANN and GENE JOHNSON  
Associated Press

**SEATTLE (AP)** — A bus driver hailed as a hero for steering his bus away from a gunman who opened fire in Seattle on him and his passengers says he was just doing his job but is "glad to be alive."

Eric Stark was hit in the torso by a bullet but authorities have said he still managed to turn the bus around and drive his passengers to safety from the gunman walking in a neighborhood who went on to kill two men, apparently at random, before he was taken into custody Stark, 53, "saved lives and took action even after being harmed," said Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkin.

But Stark, recovering Thursday in a hospital, told ABC's "Good Morning America" Thursday "it's what any other driver would be able to do if they were physically able."

The events unfolded at about 4 p.m. Wednesday in Seattle's Lake City neighborhood, when the gunman walked up to a 56-year-old female driver, shooting and wounding her. The man, who police had still not identified Thursday, then walked on and fired at the bus, hitting Stark, authorities said.

"I ducked down really quick for some cover, did like a two-second assessment of my injuries and figured — well, I can breathe, I can think, I can see, and I can talk," Stark said from his hospital room. "So for me that was enough to go, 'OK, we're getting out of here. I've gotta get these people out of here.'"

The gunman, identified in jail records as Tad Mi-

chael Norman, then approached a second motorist and opened fire, killing a 50-year-old man, according to police. After officers arrived, the suspect fled in that victim's vehicle. He drove a few blocks and then collided with another car, killing the 70-year-old male driver, fire department officials said.

Norman, 33, was taken into custody after a brief standoff, police said. King County Jail records showed he was booked on investigation of homicide, robbery and assault Thursday after his release from a hospital for treatment of what were characterized as minor injuries.

Witness John Barrett told the KOMO television station that he was in his garage when he heard what sounded like fire crackers. He went outside and saw a man with a gun pointing it at people as he walked down a street "just firing at anything just without any regard."

None of the passengers aboard the bus driven by Stark were hurt, the King County Metro Transit agency said.

Stark managed to get off the bus and walk to a gurney so paramedics could take him to the hospital, said Kenneth Price, president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 587, which represents drivers.

Stark has worked for the transit agency seven years and "acted heroically in the face of extreme adversity to protect his passengers," said King County Executive Dow Constantine said has worked for King County Metro for seven years.

Stark, the woman who was shot and the suspect were

taken to Seattle's Harborview Medical Center. None suffered life-threatening injuries, said hospital spokeswoman Susan Gregg.

"Our thoughts now are with families of those killed and those injured," said Durkin. "The entire city of Seattle is pulling for them." □



Several bullet holes can be seen in the driver's side window of a Metro Bus on Northeast 125th Street, between 32nd and 33rd Avenues Northeast after a shooting in Seattle, Wednesday March 27, 2019.

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# UN council adopts resolution to combat terrorist financing

By EDITH M. LEDERER  
Associated Press

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — The U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution Thursday aimed at strengthening global efforts to combat the numerous and new ways that terrorist groups like al-Qaida and the Islamic State raise funds to finance their operations. The French-drafted resolution orders all countries to ensure that their domestic laws are sufficient to prosecute and penalize those responsible for directly or indirectly financing "terrorist organizations or individual terrorists for any purpose." It also demands that the U.N.'s 193 member states ensure that all measures they take to combat terrorism and its financing comply with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law — a measure sought by aid, rights and refugee organizations concerned that counter-terrorism laws can restrict their activities. The Security Council has addressed terrorist financing in resolutions since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist at-



Jean-Yves Le Drian, United Nations Security Council president, speaks at the UN headquarters about threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, Thursday, March 28, 2019.

tacks on the United States, but this is the first to focus solely on the issue and address the new methods extremist groups and their affiliates have adopted to raise money. U.N. counter-terrorism chief Vladimir Voronkov told the council in a video statement from Rome that

the resolution's adoption "comes at a critical time." "Recent attacks around the world demonstrate that financial flows continue to reach terrorist groups from both illegal and legal means," he said. "A concerted effort to redouble the world's attention on stopping the financing of

terrorism is therefore a vital topic." France's Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, who presided over the meeting, said after the vote: "The challenge is very great. Our determination has to be equally great." "We have to tackle the evil at the root and intensify our efforts in order to isolate terrorism by drying up their sources of financing," he said. Le Drian said terrorist groups such as the Islamic State may have been

chased from their territory, "but they have learned to inhabit new virtual financial spaces where they exploit new technologies." "They know how to amass funds by opening online pools," he added. "They transform their resources into cryptocurrency in order to acquire drones in cyberspace." They also pervert informal "hawala" money transfer networks which are especially popular in the Middle East, parts of Africa and the Indian subcontinent, "to transfer funds to the other end of the world" for terrorist activities, Le Drian said. The resolution adopted Thursday strongly urges all countries to implement international standards established by the Financial Action Task Force or FATF, which was established in 1989 by major economic powers to combat money laundering. It has since expanded its work to countering terrorist financing and the financing of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Marshall Billingslea, the FATF president, told the Security Council "it is critical for all states to recognize where they may be vulnerable to terrorist financing and then use that understanding to mitigate those risks properly." □

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## 4th victims dies following March 18 Utrecht tram attack

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** — Authorities say a fourth victim has died from injuries sustained in the March 18 tram shooting in Utrecht, an incident being investigated as a possible extremist attack. The 74-year-old man died Thursday. Two men and a woman died on the day of the attack, and one victim remains injured in hospital. No further details were available. The main suspect in the

shooting in the central Dutch city faces multiple manslaughter or murder charges and authorities continue to investigate "terrorist intent" in the attack, the prosecutor's office said in a statement. The suspect, a Utrecht resident of Turkish descent, was arrested hours after the shooting. He has said he acted alone. Prosecutors say the man has a long criminal record and did not know any of his victims. □





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## Egyptian cease-fire mediators shuttle between Israel, Gaza

By MOHAMMED DARAGH-MEH

ILAN BEN ZION

Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Egyptian mediators pressed ahead Thursday with efforts to broker a cease-fire between Gaza's Hamas rulers and Israel, even as the sides braced for the possibility of renewed violence this weekend.

As negotiations continued, Hamas was making preparations for a mass demonstration along the Israeli border on Saturday. In response, Israel said it was moving additional troops to the area.

The Egyptian team met with Hamas officials, then went to Israel before returning back to Gaza late Thursday for more meetings. The Egyptians did not comment as talks wrapped up and they returned to their hotel.

Ismail Radwan, a top



Palestinians search for their family's belongings amid the rubble of destroyed building near a Hamas security building that was destroyed in an Israeli airstrike late Monday, in Gaza City, Wednesday, March 27, 2019.

Associated Press

Hamas official, said that if there is progress, Hamas would scale back Saturday's demonstration. The protest, marking the one-

year anniversary of the weekly gatherings, is expected to be exceptionally large.

"The new understanding, if

implemented, would make our people in Gaza feel a significant relief," Radwan said. He said if Israel "was committed to the under-

standings, then Saturday's march would be peaceful."

Three Hamas officials familiar with the negotiations said the Egyptians were offering the organization a series of measures to ease a crippling Egyptian-Israeli blockade on Gaza. In exchange, Hamas would have to pledge to halt rocket fire and keep border protests under control and far from the separation fence.

The officials say the deal would only take effect after Saturday's demonstration — a likely sticking point with the Israelis.

They said the Israeli gestures would include an expanded fishing zone for Palestinian anglers off the Mediterranean coast, increasing imports and exports in and out of Gaza, increased electricity from Israel and increased movement of people through Gaza's border crossings. □

## Pope explains reluctant ring kiss: Fear of spreading germs

**VATICAN CITY (AP)** — Pope Francis has set the record straight about why he pulled his hand away when throngs of people lined up this week to kiss his ring: for fear of spreading germs.

Vatican spokesman Alessandro Gisotti said Thursday that Francis was concerned about hygiene when, after greeting dozens of well-wishers in a lengthy receiving line Monday in Loreto, he began pulling his hand away to discourage people from kissing his ring.

Video of the incident went

viral, with conservative critics blasting what they said was Francis' "graceless" disrespect for the tradition and the faithful who wanted to honor it.

Gisotti said Thursday he had just spoken to the pope about it, and Francis replied that it was nothing of the sort.

"The Holy Father told me that the motivation was very simple: hygiene," Gisotti told reporters. "He wants to avoid the risk of contagion for the people, not for him."

The tradition of kissing the ring of a bishop or pope goes back centuries, as a sign of respect and obedience.

Gisotti noted that Francis is more than happy to receive the ring-kiss in small groups, where the spread of germs is more contained, as he did Wednesday when a handful of people were lined up at the end of his general audience to greet him.

Several bent down to kiss his ring, and Francis patiently allowed it. □



Pope Francis leaves at the end of his weekly general audience, in St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican, Wednesday, March 27, 2019.

Associated Press



# Rescued migrants safe in Europe after hijacking oil tanker

By **STEPHEN CALLEJA**  
**COLLEEN BARRY**  
Associated Press

**VALLETTA, Malta (AP)** — A group of migrants desperate not to go back to Libya made it safely to Europe on Thursday after commandeering the oil tanker that rescued them at sea — a drama that underlined contradictions in Europe's migration policies and could discourage future rescues.

Both Italy and Malta initially refused entry to the Palau-flagged El Hiblu 1. But Maltese armed forces intercepted it overnight after confirming with the captain that he was navigating toward Europe against his will. Special forces boarded it and restored control to the crew.

The 100 migrants, including 15 women and 47 claiming to be minors, left the tanker in a port near the Maltese capital of Valletta; five were handcuffed after being detained on suspicion of being the ringleaders. Italy's hard-line interior minister called the hijacking the "the first act of piracy



Armed forces stand onboard the Turkish oil tanker El Hiblu 1, which was hijacked by migrants, in Valletta, Malta, Thursday March 28, 2019.

Associated Press

on the high seas with migrants." But humanitarian groups rejected that label, saying they were victims of "Europe's inhumane border policy," citing reports that many migrants have been mistreated, raped and tortured in Libya. The German humanitarian

group Sea-Eye said its rescue ship, the Alan Kurdi, was in the area of the El Hiblu 1 when it heard radio communications between the tanker and a European aircraft monitoring the seas. The aircraft asked the tanker to respond to two rubber boats, saying that the people on board were "in mortal danger" and that the Libyan coast guard was "out of service." After the rescue, the captain reported to the aircraft that the migrants "are very upset and do not want to be brought back to Libya."

However, the captain said the Libyan capital of Tripoli was the tanker's destination. Sea-Eye spokeswoman Carlotta Weibl said that they don't have exact information of what happened aboard the El Hiblu 1, but that "we don't see it as piracy because those people were claiming their right. It was completely illegal for a European plane to send them back to Libya." Migrants have long reported that commercial ships either ignore smugglers' boats in distress, or merely stop to give them water, said Hassiba Hadj-Sahraoui, humanitarian affairs adviser with Doctors Without Borders. Similar incidents could accelerate the trend.

"They are doomed whatever they do," she said. "This is extremely disturbing for commercial ships. The shipping industry is trying to follow a tenant of international law, which is rescue. ... But if you are a commercial ship on tight deadlines and you need to deliver goods, it is an impossible situation." The International Chamber of Shipping based in London expressed concern about the incident and said it would raise the issue with the U.N. International Maritime Organization. "If a ship is directed to disembark rescued people in Libya, it creates a potential for conflict between the crew and desperate and frustrated people that might object to being returned," ICS secretary-general Guy Platten said in a statement. He added that civilian merchant seafarers "can be severely affected by the traumatic situations they have to face, having complied with their legal and humanitarian obligation to come to the rescue of anyone found in distress at sea."

The European Union has been training the Libyan coast guard in the hope that it will prevent migrants from entering international waters, where they have routinely been rescued, either by commercial ships

or those run by humanitarian groups filling in the void after member countries significantly scaled down an EU operation in the Mediterranean.

But the contradiction lies in the fact that no EU member considers Libya, or any other northern African country, to be a "safe third country" where migrants can be returned without fear for their well-being. The EU also opposes the death penalty, and in extradition cases generally refuses to send people to countries where they might be killed or tortured.

Matthew Brook, the acting representative for the U.N. refugee agency in Libya, told reporters in Geneva that the conditions for many migrants in government-run detention centers in Libya were "terrible." He relayed an anecdote from some migrants that electric shocks were administered to them in vats of water.

While Europe is reducing its own rescue mission, Italy and Malta have refused to accept aid group rescue ships in their ports. That has led to offshore standoffs with boats loaded with migrants, often weak from their journey and mistreatment in Libya, while EU nations haggle over their fate. Many humanitarian groups have stopped taking part in rescues; in fact only the Alan Kurdi is currently active in the central Mediterranean. Doctors Without Borders suspended their operation in December due to port closures, administrative pressure on Panama to pull its flag, and containment measures meaning that fewer migrants were making it past the Libyan coast guard.

The policies have had the effect desired by populist leaders like Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini. Migrant arrivals in Italy were down dramatically last year to 23,370 from nearly 120,000 a year earlier, according to Interior Ministry figures. Deaths at sea also sank to the lowest levels in five years, 2,299, according to the International Organization for Migration. □

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## At least 19 killed by Bangladesh high-rise building blaze

By JULHAS ALAM  
Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)

— A fire swept through a high-rise office building in Bangladesh's capital on Thursday, killing at least 19 people and injuring about 70 others, officials said. The blaze trapped many people inside the building, with some shouting for help from windows on the building's upper floors and from the roof.

At least one person fell to the ground while trying to climb down the building.

Fire officials said after battling the blaze for several hours that most people inside had been rescued.

"The situation is under control," said Debashish Bard-



A Bangladeshi, stuck in a multi-storied office building on fire, speaks on his mobile phone in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Thursday, March 28, 2019.

Associated Press

han, a Fire Service and Civil Defense deputy director.

The fire at the FR Tower, on a busy avenue in Dhaka's Banani commercial dis-

trict, was the latest in a city where flouted building regulations and safety norms have made deadly blazes common.

Firefighters shattered the building's glass walls to free toxic gas.

A Facebook Live video taken by Roy Pinaki showed five people climbing down from windows while burned building materials fell around them. One person slipped from what appeared to be a rope that people were using to escape, bounced off utility wires and fell to the ground. Military helicopters joined the rescue operation, and one person dangled from a helicopter hovering over the roof as thick plumes of smoke rose.

More than a dozen people who fled to the roof were rescued by firefighters using hydraulic cranes, Bard-

han said.

Witness Sajib Hasan said some people shouted for help from the upper floors of the building. Onlookers shouted back encouragement, some raising their hands to pray for the safety of those trapped. Heavy smoke deterred efforts by responders, but Hasan said he watched at least a dozen people rescued.

Banani, the area where the fire broke out, is a busy commercial district with multistory buildings housing offices, universities and restaurants.

Dilip Kumar Ghosh, deputy director of the fire service, said heavy traffic delayed the arrival of firetrucks at the building. □

## Papuan fighters vow more attacks on Indonesian highway

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

— Papuan independence fighters are vowing more attacks on a highway that's the Indonesian president's key development project in the country's troubled easternmost region.

The threat was made in a video purportedly recorded last week in the Nduga area of Papua province's central highlands. The video and photos show about 40 fighters, a few with Indonesian military assault rifles and other weapons.

In the video, a man standing next to a liberation army commander, Egi-anus Kogoya, reads out a statement that taunts the military for being unable to find the Papuan fighters even though they're in the same mountainous area.

Kogoya, who also speaks in the video, said, "We cannot step back, we will not hesitate, we would pursue (military and police) until Jakarta gives us indepen-

dence, our nation must unite to separate from the Republic of Indonesia."

Indonesian forces have poured into Nduga since rebels killed 19 people working on the trans-Papua highway on Dec. 2. The government of President Joko Widodo says the highway will speed up economic development of West Papua and Papua provinces, among the poorest regions in Indonesia, but independence supporters see the project as a way for Jakarta to cement control over the region.

An insurgency has simmered in Papua, which makes up the western half of the island of New Guinea, since the early 1960s when Indonesia annexed the Dutch-controlled territory. Discrimination against indigenous Papuans and abuses by Indonesian police and military have drawn renewed attention globally as Indonesia campaigns for membership

in the U.N.'s human rights watchdog.

An Indonesian human rights lawyer, Veronica Koman, and a Papuan activist, Victor Yeimo, addressed the council earlier this month. They said 25 civilians have died as a result of military and police security operations in Nduga since the Dec. 2 attack.

Indonesia replied that security forces are "trying to be very selective and cautious in the attempt to bring all perpetrators of the heinous killing" on Dec. 2 to justice. The military says civilian workers on the highway have fled and its engineers will build the 21 bridges needed to complete it.

Papuan fighters claimed to have seized weapons from Indonesian soldiers in a Mar. 7 gunfight in Nduga that according to the military killed three soldiers and at least one Papuan. Indonesia's military also claimed to have recovered weapons. □



In this Dec. 7, 2018, file photo, Indonesian soldiers and police officers carry a body bag containing the body of a victim of separatist attack in Nduga district upon its arrival at Moses Kilangin Airport in Timika, Papua province, Indonesia.

Associated Press

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# Haiti opposition calls new protests in bid to oust president

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Haiti's largest opposition groups have united in a campaign to push U.S.-backed President Jovenel Moise from office with nationwide protests aimed at paralyzing the country starting on Friday.

Previous protests have led to dozens of deaths in clashes between protesters and police and left businesses shut for days, gravely damaging an economy already struggling with high inflation and worsening fuel shortages.

Newly named Prime Minister Jean Michel Lapin said Wednesday that he encouraged peaceful protest but the government would not allow violence on the streets.

"Our brothers are protesting for a better life, better education, health care and jobs. We encourage them to do that and respect



In this March 4, 2019 file photo, men accompany a coffin containing the remains a demonstrator who was killed in a previous protest, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Associated Press

the law," Lapin told reporters. "People should respect the mandate of those who have been elected in a vote by the people."

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights reported last month that 26 people had been killed and 77 wounded over

three weeks of protests and related violence.

Rep. Andy Levin, a Democrat from Michigan and member of the House For-

eign Affairs Committee, and Rep. Barbara Lee, a Democrat from California, expressed concern about the violence in a letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday.

Haiti has moved closer to the U.S. since taking the Trump administration's side in its push to unseat Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro. Haiti backed Venezuela in regional forums for years and received billions of dollars of subsidized oil from the socialist government. That aid has now disappeared with Venezuela's economic collapse, and Haiti recognizes opposition leader Juan Guaido as head of state.

A Haitian Senate investigation found that some \$2 billion in Venezuelan aid had been stolen or misspent, largely under the administration of Moise's predecessor and political patron, Michael Martelly. □

# Cuba, Google move to improve island's connectivity

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba and Google signed a deal Thursday moving the island one step closer to having a state-of-the-art connection to the modern internet.

The American internet giant and the Cuban government agreed to create a seamless, cost-free connection between their two networks once Cuba is able to physically connect to a new undersea fiber-optic cable that would be laid sometime in the future. With that cable in place, the so-called peering deal linking Google's global internet backbone directly to Cuba's local network would allow Cubans to connect faster to content hosted on Google servers. It would also reduce the Cuban government's cost of connecting users to Google content.

Network owners like the Cuban telecoms monopoly Etecsa currently must pay third-party operator fees for passing traffic along to sites such as YouTube, Google Maps and Google.com.

"We are excited to have reached this memorandum



Google's head of Cuba operations, Brett Perlmutter, left, Google's head of Cuba operations, wait to sign a deal with Luis Adolfo Iglesias Reyes, vice president of investments of Etecsa, right, in Havana, Cuba, Thursday, March 28, 2019.

Associated Press

for the benefit of internet users here in Cuba," Brett Perlmutter, the head of Google Cuba, said before signing the deal.

Cuba currently has a single fiber-optic connection running under the Caribbean to Venezuela that

has been unable to provide the island with sufficient capacity to support its relatively small but growing group of internet users, for reasons never disclosed by either country's socialist government.

Thursday's deal will have

no immediate effect on the ease of connectivity in Cuba, and neither Cuban nor Google officials provided any estimated timeline for the island's connection to a new fiber-optic cable. That step could take years given the slow pace of Cu-

ba's bureaucracy and the obstacles thrown up by the U.S. trade embargo on the island.

The embargo does contain legal exceptions allowing deals to increase telecommunications capacity in Cuba, which makes Google's work possible. Cuba already allows Google to run servers on the island storing Google content such as YouTube user information, a measure that has significantly increased the speed of accessing that content for Cubans.

The Google-Cuba deal also creates a working group of engineers dedicated to ironing out the details.

Cuba is rapidly leaving behind its status as one of the world's least-connected nations, but its telecommunications infrastructure has been overwhelmed by millions of new users and service suffers from constant interruptions, slowdowns and some of the most expensive rates in the world, particularly for amounts of data beyond a few gigabytes per month. □



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Tropicana Entertainment Inc. some months ago, this being the reason of the name change to Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino. This was a simple transition in name only as our ultimate ownership has remained the same; Tropicana Entertainment was a subsidiary of Icahn Enterprises, L.P. ("IEP") and we now report directly to the real-estate segment of IEP. IEP is a diversified holding company with multiple operating segments and is traded on the NASDAQ under the symbol "IEP". As of February 28, 2018, IEP's market capitalization was \$14.2 billion. As of December 31, 2018, IEP's

total assets were \$23.4 billion, revenues were \$11.8 billion and net income attributable to IEP was \$1.5 billion.

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**PALM BEACH**— Darline de Cuba of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor a lovely couple as Goodwill Ambassadors. The certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

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De Cuba together with Bob Curtis, General Manager of Casa del Mar presented the certificates to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination. □





## Alhambra awards SELECT Status Highest Tier Privileges and Benefits



ORANJESTAD— Alhambra Casino and Shops has awarded SELECT status to guests who have reached the casino's new, highest tier. Players attended a private event on Saturday evening and received an unprecedented choice of rewards. During the invitation-only dinner hosted by company President & Chief Operating Officer Susan Varnes and Director of Operations Rick Ingrassia, each of the benefits and rewards of SELECT were announced.

efits each year and receive opportunities throughout the year to earn additional bonuses. We now have a unique selection of benefits for CLUB, ELITE and now SELECT guests that can only be enjoyed at Alhambra".

For more information about SELECT or any promotions at Alhambra Casino and Shops, call +297-583-5000 or visit [www.casinoalhambra.com](http://www.casinoalhambra.com).

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SELECT is the highest of three tiers of membership offered by Alhambra Casino. Every guest instantly earns rewards with the CLUB card and can receive ELITE status by earning 12,000 tier credits each calendar year. The ELITE card, introduced in 2017, proved to be popular with Alhambra guests. "In the two years of our ELITE tier, we learned more about what our most loyal guests look for, refining their offers and continuing to enhance the program," said Ingrassia, adding "But as we awarded more guests with ELITE status, we recognized an opportunity to take the next step and introduce SELECT for players who reach 25,000 in earned tier credits".

The desire to continue to find opportunities to reward Alhambra's most loyal guests is not lost on Varnes, who stated; "We created the SELECT tier to allow our guests to create the program that they desire. Our SELECT guests not only receive weekly free gaming and food offers, invitations to special events and other gifts, they have their choice of bonus ben-

## Travel Tips



1. When checking-in, you will always need your valid passport, along with your ticket, e-ticket receipt or e-ticket confirmation. For some countries a Visa is also required.
2. For all US-bound departures, check-in three hours before your scheduled departure time.
3. For all US-bound flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the left side of building; follow the signs and head towards local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates. Aruba Airport provides full US Pre-Clearance service.
4. For all Non US departures, check-in may vary between airlines and destinations; always consult your airline for more information. Being at the airport 3 hours before your departure flight is always safe.
5. For all Non US flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the right side of building; follow the signs and head towards Local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates.
6. If traveling with a carry-on, there are restrictions on liquids, gels and aerosols you can carry in your carry-on luggage. Always check with your airline on limitations.
7. Always check the weight limit of your baggage; excess weight may result in penalty fees.
8. Always label your bags and suitcases with your name, address and phone number.
9. Always leave all carry-on items unlocked while passing through screening points to not cause delays if these need to be inspected.
10. Avoid wearing big belt buckles, clothing with metal buttons, lots of jewelry etc. when traveling. If you have these on, remove all metal items and place these in a tray for screening. It is advisable to put all metal items in your carry-on luggage until you clear security. This will help speed up the process.
11. Remove shoes at checkpoint and place in tray for x-ray machine screening.
12. All electronic items should be placed in tray outside their case for x-ray screening.
13. Avoid packing foods and beverages in your check-in baggage. When traveling to the US, you have to comply with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More information <https://www.usda.gov/>.
14. If traveling with medication, please pack these in your carry-on luggage in their original packaging.
15. If you medical documentation, present this to the security checkpoint screener to inform them. The documentation is not required and will not exempt you from the screening process.
16. Take note of inadmissible items such as sharp objects, sporting goods, guns and firearms, martial arts and self-defense items, tools, explosive materials, flammable items, disabling chemicals and other items when traveling. More information available on [www.airportaruba.com](http://www.airportaruba.com).



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## Closure of the Shete entrance to Parke Nacional Arikok as of 1 April, 2019

**SAN FUEGO** — Fundacion Parke Nacional Aruba (FPNA) is currently working on a reorganization process in order to better the efficiency of its operations and thereby better meet its objectives. FPNA's main objectives are to preserve nature, create opportunities for education and research, preserve historical and cultural places and artefacts in the park and to also be a recreational destination for locals and tourists. Simultaneously with the reorganization, FPNA is also preparing to start major maintenance of the buildings and the infrastructure of roads, facilities and communications.

In connection with the refining of our conservation tasks, it is necessary to close the entrance at Shete of Parke Nacional Arikok. The increase in usage of this route in recent years has caused inconvenience to the neighboring households and with regard to nature conservation, every road through the park has a negative influence

due to noise pollution as well as dust and waste pollution. The closing of the entrance at Shete will allow for better control and reduce the number of areas within the park that are affected by traffic.

The entrance at Shete will close on 1 April 2019. With the definitive closure of the entrance at Shete, all visitors to the park wishing to visit Conchi (Natural Pool) will have to continue the route via the visitor center (main entrance) in San Fuego and then follow the road via Sero Arikok to Conchi.

In the coming weeks, this route to Conchi will be repaired in such a way that it will be more accessible for the adequate vehicles, pertaining to the maximum speed of 20 km / h (park rule). FPNA is counting on the cooperation and understanding of all visitors, tour operators and UTV / Quad Racer Rentals for the aforementioned change, which will benefit the conservation of nature in the park.



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In order for the aforementioned change to go as smoothly as possible, FPNA will grant a transition period of two weeks, mainly for those who are unaware of the aforementioned change. Park rangers will be present at the entrance at Shete during this transition period to guide visitors and give instructions on how to proceed. □

### Restoring of the crosses leading to the Alto Vista Chapel



ORANJESTAD –The Minister of Tourism Dangui Oduber has announced the restoration of the crosses on the road to the Alto Vista Chapel has begun. This project is being financed by the Ministry of Tourism and will be completed in a period of 45 days. The roadside crosses at Alto Vista Chapel are a sacred and an important part of Aruba's Culture. Many people go there daily to pray or meditate. It is a very popular tourist attraction. □

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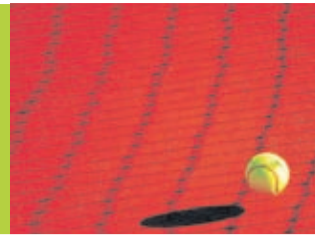
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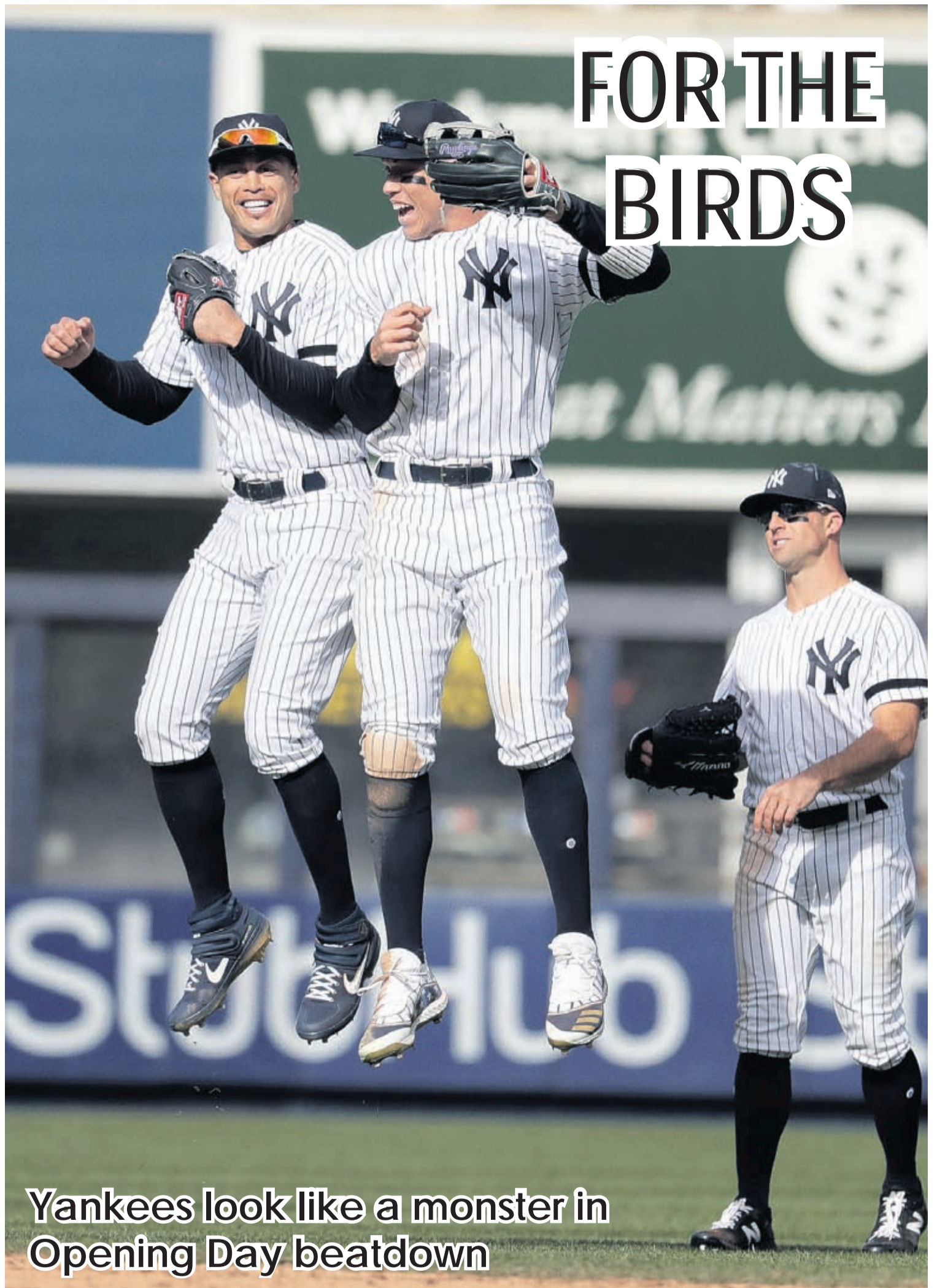
# SPORTS



## Pro leagues, gambling industry are now the happy couple

OXON HILL, Md. (AP) — A year ago, Nevada was the only state where single-game sports bets were legal, and NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman expected to be successful in persuading the Supreme Court to maintain that status quo. Listen to him now. "What we've learned is it's another point of engagement for fans. It started with daily fantasy sports and ultimately, I think, if you're interested in sports betting, you're going to have an increased opportunity to engage in the game," Bettman said Thursday. "Our hope is it causes people to watch more games, whether it's existing avid fans who consume more or casual fans who want to place a bet or two." Bettman's reversal on sports betting has been quick and dramatic, and he's not alone. His comments came at an event that would have been unthinkable as recently as last summer: a sports gambling summit at the MGM National Harbor casino where team owners and league executives celebrated their newfound closeness with sportsbook operators. They sat on panels talking about the business opportunities that accompany legal betting and mingled over cocktails and hors d'oeuvres prepared by celebrity chef Bryan Voltaggio. The Supreme Court ruled last May that any state can legalize sports betting if it chooses, and since then the action has been swift.

Continued on Page 22



## Yankees look like a monster in Opening Day beatdown

New York Yankees left fielder Giancarlo Stanton, left, and right fielder Aaron Judge, center, react as left fielder Brett Gardner looks on after they defeated the Baltimore Orioles 7-2 during an opening day baseball game at Yankee Stadium, Thursday, March 28, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press  
MLB on Page 19



# Woods down, but not yet out at Match Play



Tiger Woods hits from the rough on the sixth hole during round-robin play at the Dell Match Play Championship golf tournament, Thursday, March 28, 2019, in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press

**By DOUG FERGUSON**  
**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)** — The magical escape by Tiger Woods didn't keep him from losing Thursday in the Dell Technologies Match Play. He just didn't lose hope of playing on the weekend. The same couldn't be said for defending champion Bubba Watson, Brooks Koepka, Phil Mickelson, Patrick Reed and a host of others who have to return Friday morning to Austin Country Club with no chance of advancing out of their group. The Match Play began to take shape, more because of 20 players from the 64-man field mathematically eliminated than who can still reach the weekend. Jordan Spieth is still alive after building a 6-up lead through 12 holes on Kevin Na, but not winning until four holes later when Na missed a 4-foot birdie putt. Jim Furyk and Henrik

Stenson emerged with 2-0 records from the group of major champions. They play Friday after knocking out Mickelson and Jason Day. "It's going to be a tough one again," Stenson said. "Jim, I don't think he's given away an easy bogey since 1994 or something." Brandt Snedeker took advantage of too many mistakes by Woods off the tee and on the greens for a 2-and-1 victory, a big one for Snedeker because of his opponent's name and reputation. But it was just one win. "I knew I was playing good, so I was excited about the opportunity," Snedeker said. "I turned into Tiger's biggest fan tomorrow going forward, because I need him to go out there and beat Patrick (Cantlay) tomorrow." Snedeker first has to beat Aaron Wise, who was eliminated when Cantlay beat

him, and he would only advance if Woods beats Cantlay. Otherwise, Snedeker and Cantlay will return to the first tee for a sudden-death playoff. Several groups are like that. "See you on the first tee tomorrow," Horschel said with a smile and a wink to Spieth. Horschel and Spieth halved their match in the opening round, both won on Thursday, and if they win again — Spieth faces Watson, Horschel gets Na — they would be in a playoff to determine who reaches the knockout stage on the weekend. Woods, back in the Match Play for the first time since 2013, has never been part of this round-robin format. All that mattered was trying to win his match, and he never led against Snedeker. He still provided one of the most remarkable halves on another action-packed day.

Woods was 1 down when he hit his second shot under a bush on the 10th hole, leaving him little option but to take a penalty drop. Snedeker saw it and played his third shot conservatively to about 4 feet. In his mind, he was 2 up heading to the next tee. Instead, Woods dropped to his right knee to play a left-handed shot, inverting the club and holding it parallel to the ground. He not only made contact, the ball bounced out to about 4 feet and he made the par putt. Snedeker had to make his putt to keep the match from being tied, which he did. Three holes later, Woods hit iron off the tee and pulled it left into the Colorado River, making double bogey to fall 2 down. Snedeker seized control with a 10-foot birdie on the 16th, and closed him out on the next hole. "I'm probably the most hated man in Texas

right now," Snedeker said. "I bet you my kids were probably rooting for him late in the round." It wasn't a clean match by any stretch, but the windy, dry conditions made it tough on everyone. "We both made a couple of mistakes out there, but he made a few less mistakes than I did," Woods said. "All I can do is hopefully get a point tomorrow and see if that's good enough." Dustin Johnson, the top seed for the third straight year, lost to Branden Grace when the South African poured in a big birdie putt on the 17th and Johnson couldn't win the final hole. That leaves Johnson needing help to win his group. Justin Thomas recovered from his opening loss to beat Matt Wallace. His chances are alive under various scenarios. "Any key is to win this match today," he said. Justin Rose delivered the best comeback. He was 3 down with four to play against Eddie Pepperell when he rallied to earn a halve with birdies on the last two holes. Cheering him along outside the ropes was Mark "Fooch" Fulcher, his caddie who is recovering from a heart operation and worked nine holes of practice as he readies his return to Rose's bag at the Masters in two weeks. "He's been walking on the sidelines and gave me, 'Come on, Rosie.' I could tell he hadn't given up on me," Rose said. "Picked me up a little bit and made me dig a little deeper possibly." Furyk wasn't planning to be in Texas this week. It wasn't until a runner-up finish in The Players Championship two weeks ago — he was among the last into the field at the TPC Sawgrass — that allowed him to crack the top 64 in the world to qualify for Match Play. A victory Friday is likely enough to get him into the Masters. "I guess I'm not really upset with anything right this second," Furyk said. "I feel pretty consistent and pretty solid throughout my game." □



# Power surge! Dodgers hit 8 HRs in 12-5 win over Arizona

By GREG BEACHAM  
AP Sports Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Joc Pederson and Enrique Hernandez each hit two of the Los Angeles Dodgers' eight home runs, which set a major league record for opening day and tied the franchise mark for any game, during a 12-5 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Thursday.

Hernandez, Austin Barnes and Corey Seager all homered in the fourth inning to chase Arizona ace Zack Greinke.

Max Muncy, Cody Bellinger and Hernandez then connected in the seventh for the power-packed Dodgers, whose pursuit of a third straight National League pennant got off to a thrilling start.

Adam Jones and Christian Walker went deep for the Diamondbacks, but their pitching staff's eight homers allowed also set a team record.

The Dodgers broke baseball's previous opening day record of six homers, set by the Mets in 1988 and matched by the White Sox in 2008.

Los Angeles also equaled the franchise mark set against Milwaukee on May 23, 2002, when Shawn Green hit four of the Dodgers' eight.

The Dodgers finished second in the majors last season with 235 homers, and they were even more potent in their first regular-season game under new hitting coach Robert Van Scoyoc. All eight dingers were hit by returning players to the Dodgers, who have only two new position players on their opening day roster.

The Dodgers provided ample support for Hyun-Jin Ryu, who yielded four hits and struck out eight over six stellar innings as Los Angeles' first opening day starter not named Clayton Kershaw since 2010. Kershaw's franchise-record streak of eight consecutive opening day starts ended due to left shoulder inflammation.

Ryu, who retired 13 straight during one stretch, became the second Korean-born pitcher to start on opening day in the majors. Meanwhile, Greinke's latest return to Dodger Stadium was a debacle.

The \$206.5 million right-hander allowed four homers for the fifth time in his career, but only the second time this decade. The Dodgers also hit four against their former star on Sept. 5, 2016, in Chavez Ravine, where Greinke has allowed 14 homers in 34 innings since his big-money move to Arizona.

Arizona reliever Matt Koch allowed the Dodgers' other four homers over a seven-

batter stretch in the sixth and seventh, abruptly toppling the majors' opening day power record.

Pederson delivered as the Dodgers' leadoff hitter. After doubling and scoring in the first inning, he hit one of Greinke's curveballs 420 feet to straightaway center in the second.

Hernandez drove a two-run shot to left in the fourth. Barnes followed with a solo shot to left — and two outs later, Seager chased Greinke with his first homer since April 28. Seager was back in the Dodgers' lineup for the first time since missing nearly all of last season due to Tommy John surgery.

After Pederson hit a two-



Los Angeles Dodgers' Joc Pederson hits a two-run home run during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks, Thursday, March 28, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

run shot off Koch in the sixth, the Dodgers reached historic homer territory with shots by Muncy, Bellinger and Hernandez in a four-batter stretch of the seventh.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Diamondbacks: Manager Torey Lovullo put Walker at first base on opening

day instead of Jake Lamb, who was injured for part of spring. Paul Goldschmidt had been Arizona's starting first baseman for the previous seven opening days. ... Ildemaro Vargas made the opening day roster in place of Steven Souza Jr., who is out for the year with a knee injury. □

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# Verlander outpitches Snell, Astros cruise past Rays 5-1

By FRED GOODALL

AP Sports Writer

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)

— Justin Verlander relished facing Blake Snell on opening day.

"I don't try to hide behind the this-is-just-another-start anymore," the Houston ace.

The Astros star delivered, beating Snell and the Tampa Bay Rays 5-1 in a rare season-opening matchup between pitchers who finished first and second in balloting for the Cy Young Award.

"There definitely is more intensity to it," Verlander added. "It's kind of somewhere between a playoff game and a regular-season game, so I just kind of used the adrenalin, and you go from there."

George Springer homered on opening day for the third straight year. Michael Brantley and Jose Altuve also went deep for the Astros against Snell, the AL Cy Young recipient who won 21 games and led the league in ERA.

Verlander (1-0) allowed a leadoff homer to Austin Meadows on his fourth before dominating a mostly young Tampa Bay lineup featuring just one player — center fielder Kevin Kiermaier — who started for the Rays on opening day last year.

"I just hit the reset button real quick," the 36-year-old right-hander said.

"It's not something you want to do, to lead off the year with a homer," Verlander added. "But I've done it before, so it was let's go turn the page and try to find it." Verlander, fresh off signing a three-year contract that added \$66 million in guaranteed money for 2020 and 2021, limited the Rays to one run and three hits over seven innings before a crowd of 25,025 at Tropicana Field — Tampa Bay's 14th consecutive sellout for a home opener.

"We ran into a buzz saw. He did a great job having all of us off balance," Kiermaier said. "For me personally, I feel like every time I thought a fastball was coming it was an offspeed.



Houston Astros' Justin Verlander pitches to the Tampa Bay Rays during the first inning of a baseball game Thursday, March 28, 2019, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

A couple times I thought he's going to try to get me to chase an off speed, it was a heater."

Verlander, who improved to 4-1 in 11 opening day starts, struck out nine and only allowed one hit — Yandy Diaz's seventh-inning double — and three baserunners total after walking a batter and plunking another in the second.

Ryan Pressly pitched a scoreless eighth and Roberto Osuna worked a perfect ninth inning to finish a combined four-hitter.

Springer gave Astros ace all the offensive support he'd need with a three-run homer in the third off Snell, who yielded five runs and six hits over six innings of his

first opening day start.

The 26-year-old lefty, who signed a \$50 million, five-year contract extension this month, walked two batters ahead of Springer's home run and finished with three strikeouts.

"I was happy with a lot of things I did, but I was upset with sequencing," Snell said. "Threw first pitch curveballs to Springer twice. Right there credit him. He was waiting for it. I fell in love with the curveball and didn't mix pitches like I should have been doing."

With the NL Cy Young winner Jacob deGrom facing Washington's Max Scherzer earlier Thursday, Snell vs. Verlander became the

fourth instance of a reigning Cy Young recipient facing the runner-up for the award on opening day the next season.

The other two matchups both occurred in 1979, when reigning AL winner Ron Guidry (Yankees) faced runner-up Mike Caldwell (Brewers) and NL winner Gaylord Perry (Padres) faced Burt Hooton (Dodgers).

LATE SELLOUT

Despite closing the upper deck at Tropicana Field, reducing capacity of the domed stadium to 25,025 for this season, Thursday's game wasn't announced as a sellout until late Wednesday. It's the 14th consecutive season

the Rays have sold out the home opener, however the club routinely finishes near the bottom of the majors in attendance, including 29th among 30 teams in 2018. Attendance for the past five home openers was listed as last year's opening day attendance was announced as 31,042.

"It's problematic," Rays principal owner Stu Sternberg said of the late sellout, noting there were far fewer tickets available than for previous openers.

"25,000 seats given everything that we are; the way we finished last year; the team we had; the 4 o'clock start, it should be a layup to use a different sport phrase," the owner added. "It is what it is."

SUBPAR OUTING

Snell's loss was his first since July 12 at Minnesota, ending a stretch of nine consecutive victories over a span of 10 starts. ... The young left-hander didn't allow more than two runs in any of his 14 starts at home in 2018. He yielded one or fewer in 12 of them.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Astros: RHP's Lance McCullers Jr. (right elbow surgery) and Joe Smith (left Achilles' tendon surgery) were both placed on the 10-day injured list. Meanwhile, SS Carlos Correa (nick stiffness) said before the game that his injury is "nothing major" and that he hopes to be ready to play some time before the end of the four-game series.

Rays: To finalize the opening day roster, 3B Matt Duffy (left hamstring tightness), LHP Anthony Banda (Tommy John surgery) and RHP Jose De Leon (Tommy John surgery) were placed on the 10-day injured list.

UP NEXT

RHP Charlie Morton, 15-3 with a 3.13 ERA in 30 starts last season with Houston, will make his Tampa Bay debut Friday night against the Astros and RHP Gerrit Cole (15-5, 2.88 ERA in 2018). Signed to a \$30 million, two-year contract as a free agent by the Rays, Morton won Game 7 in both the ALCS and World Series in 2017 for the Astros.





Charlotte Hornets guard Tony Parker (9) goes to the basket against Washington Wizards forward Jabari Parker, right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Friday, March 15, 2019, in Washington.

## NBA says Hornets, Bucks will play in Paris in 2020

**PARIS (AP)** — The NBA is going to play a regular-season game in Paris for the first time next year, with the league announcing Thursday that Charlotte and Milwaukee are headed there. The game will be on Jan. 24. Paris has played host to preseason games before, and the league hinted several times in recent months that it was considering bringing a game that counts to the city as well. And having Charlotte involved makes perfect sense, given that the Hornets feature Tony Parker and Nicolas Batum — two veterans of the French national team.

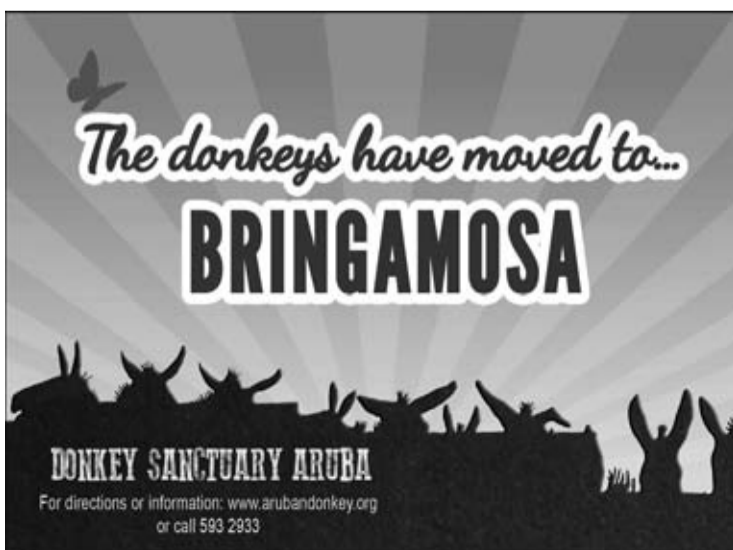
"Having played in the preseason in France during my career, I witnessed first-hand the passion the French fans have for NBA basketball," Hornets chairman Michael Jordan said. "We are excited to bring

our team to Paris for this history-making event."

Jordan and his Chicago Bulls won the 1997 McDonald's Championship in Paris. Tickets for The NBA Paris Game 2020 will go on sale later this year.

The Hornets played a preseason game in Paris in 1994. The Bucks will be going to France for the first time. "Playing in one of the great cities in Europe continues our goal to extend the global brand of the Bucks," Milwaukee co-owner Wes Edens said. "We will be proud to represent Milwaukee and Wisconsin in Paris and we thank the NBA for this exciting opportunity." The game will mark the NBA's 11th in France all-time, counting exhibitions.

"The return of an NBA game in Paris, after a 10-year absence, is a real victory for our city," Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo said. □



Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant (35) is defended by Memphis Grizzlies guard Tyler Dorsey during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, March 27, 2019, in Memphis, Tenn.

Associated Press

## Warriors beat Grizzlies to break tie with Nuggets in West

**By The Associated Press**

**MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)** — Stephen Curry and Kevin Durant each scored 28 points, with Durant going 12 of 13 from the field, and the Golden State Warriors beat the Memphis Grizzlies 118-103 on Wednesday night to take sole possession of the Western Conference lead. Curry also had 10 rebounds, and DeMarcus Cousins added 16 points and nine rebounds to help the Warriors break a tie with idle Denver for the top spot in the West.

Jonas Valanciunas led Memphis with 27 points and 13 rebounds, and Mike Conley added 22 points to take the franchise's career scoring lead and added eight assists. Bruno Caboclo had 17 points and 13 rebounds.

Durant scored seven straight points in a 9-0 run that made it 100-92 midway through the fourth quarter.

**THUNDER 107, PACERS 99**

**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)** — Paul George scored 31 points against his former team, and Oklahoma City had a 24-0 run in the third quarter to pull away from

Indiana.

Steven Adams had 25 points and 12 rebounds, and Russell Westbrook added 17 points, 12 assists and 11 rebounds for his 29th triple-double of the season. The Thunder won for only the second time in seven games.

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 28 points for Indiana, and Domantas Sabonis added 18 points and 10 rebounds.

**WIZARDS 124, SUNS 121**

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Devin Booker became the youngest player in NBA history with consecutive 50-point games, but his latest scoring binge was wasted once again by last-place Phoenix in a loss to Washington. Thomas Bryant's three-point play with 2.8 seconds left put the Wizards ahead for good in a back-and-forth game. Bryant caught Bradley Beal's pass off a baseline drive and dropped in the winning layup while getting fouled.

After he added the free throw, Phoenix had one more chance to tie, but Troy Daniels missed a 3-pointer from the corner just before the final buzzer. The 22-year-old Booker fin-

ished with 50 points and 10 rebounds as the Suns, with the worst record in the Western Conference at 17-59, dropped their fifth straight. Booker scored 59 points in a 125-92 loss Monday night at Utah.

It was the first time a Phoenix player reached 50 in back-to-back games. Tom Chambers had been the only member of the Suns to score even 40 in successive games.

Beal and Jabari Parker had 28 points apiece for the Wizards, who snapped a five-game skid. Bryant added 18 points and a career-high 19 rebounds.

**TRAIL BLAZERS 118, BULLS 98**

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Seth Curry scored a season-high 20 points and Portland beat Chicago.

Still shaken by Jusuf Nurkic's gruesome leg injury two nights earlier in a double-overtime victory over Brooklyn that secured Portland's sixth straight playoff appearance, the Trail Blazers won their fifth in a row even though Damian Lillard scored a season-low 11. Chicago's Shaquille Harrison set career highs with 21 points and 10 rebounds. □



# Pastrnak has hat trick, 5 points as Bruins beat Rangers 6-3

By The Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** — David Pastrnak had three goals and two assists for a career-high five points, sending the Boston Bruins to a 6-3 victory over the New York Rangers on Wednesday night.

Coming off a 3-1 road trip but disappointed after blowing a two-goal lead Monday night against NHL-best Tampa Bay, the Bruins broke it open with four goals in the third period for their 12th consecutive victory at home. It's their longest streak since winning 14 straight during the 2008-09 season.

Pastrnak completed his fourth hat trick and third this season with a power-play goal to make it 4-2 with 7:08 to play. He became the first Bruins player with a trio of hat tricks in one season since Hall of Famer Cam Neely in 1993-94.

The Bruins had gone 1-7-2 in



**Boston Bruins right wing David Pastrnak (88) beats New York Rangers goaltender Henrik Lundqvist for a goal during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Boston, Wednesday, March 27, 2019.**

Associated Press

their last 10 games against the Rangers, including losing the first two meetings this season. Backup goalie Jaroslav Halak made 20 saves. Jake DeBrusk, Charlie McAvoy and Patrice Bergeron also scored for Boston.

Mika Zibanejad had two

goals and Ryan Strome also scored for the Rangers, who have lost six of seven.

**AVALANCHE 4, GOLDEN KNIGHTS 3**

**DENVER (AP)** — Tyson Barrie scored to become Colorado's career goals leader among defensemen, Philipp Grubauer made 34

saves the playoff-chasing Avalanche beat Vegas.

Matt Calvert, Nathan MacKinnon and Gabriel Bourque also scored to help the Avalanche stay two points in front of Arizona for the last wild-card spot in the Western Conference with five games left. Barrie's 73rd career goal moved him out of a tie with Sandis Ozolinsh for most among Avalanche defenders. Barrie also had two assists.

Paul Stastny, Reilly Smith and Alex Tuch scored for Vegas, which was denied a chance to clinch a playoff spot. Malcolm Subban stopped 26 shots in his sixth consecutive start.

**FLYERS 5, MAPLE LEAFS 4, SO**

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Sean Couturier scored in regulation and had the only goal in a shootout in Philadelphia's victory over Toronto. Radko Gudas, Travis Konec-

ny and Ryan Hartman also scored for Philadelphia. The Flyers remained mathematically alive for a playoff berth, moving within eight points of idle Montreal for the final playoff spot with five regular-season games remaining.

Auston Matthews, Connor Brown, Nazem Kadri and William Nylander scored for Toronto.

After the first four Flyers missed in the shootout, Couturier deked to his forehead and beat Frederik Andersen. Carter Hart secured Philadelphia's third win the last eight games when he stopped Nylander's attempt.

**STARS 2, FLAMES 1**

**CALGARY, Alberta (AP)** — Alexander Radulov and Miro Heiskanen scored to lead Dallas over Calgary in a game in which Stars goaltender Ben Bishop left with an apparent injury. □

**Continued from Page 17** Sports gambling is now legal in eight states, with more than 20 others at least considering legalization.

Even after the Supreme Court decision, the leagues and the casino industry maintained an adversarial stance in statehouses, with the NBA and MLB in particular lobbying for a percentage of gambling revenue, calling it an "integrity fee" they would use to fight off attempts at game-fixing or similar scandals. But no state that has legalized sports betting has mandated those fees, leaving the leagues and sportsbook operators to work out deals on their own.

The two-day gathering, which concluded Thursday, was organized by the American Gaming Association, a casino-industry trade group that spent years trying to persuade sports leagues to embrace legal gambling, arguing it would increase fan engagement and open up new revenue streams.

"It isn't just about what the states have done from a legislative enactment perspective but the fact that 30-plus commercial agreements and deals among

many of the people in this room have taken place, and that's where the action should be," said Bill Miller, CEO of the AGA. "And that's why I think our level of success from the perspective of who wanted to come, who we invited and who said yes, was because they believe this is a commercial endeavor at this point."

In addition to Bettman — who took the occasion to announce the league's deal with bookmaker William Hill — executives from the NBA, MLB, MLS and the PGA Tour participated in panel discussions. While they kept a lower profile, the NFL and the NCAA also sent representatives to the conference.

Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a Republican whose administration took the fight over sports betting prohibition to the Supreme Court, urged gambling companies to embrace sensible regulations, arguing that successful implementation at the state level will prevent the federal government from getting involved. Sens. Orrin Hatch and Chuck Schumer have introduced a bill to regulate sports gambling at the



**NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, center, speaks as part of a panel on sports betting at an event organized by the American Gaming Association, Thursday, March 28, 2019, in Oxon Hill, Md.**

Associated Press

federal level.

Two team owners showed up to talk about the way legal sports betting could transform their venues: Ted Leonsis of the Washington Wizards and Capitals and Jeff Wilpon of the New York Mets.

Washington's mayor has already signed a bill legalizing sports gambling that has yet to take effect. At Leonsis' urging, the new law allows city stadiums and arenas to apply for sports-betting licenses, and Leonsis this month bought out a popular sports bar at Capi-

tal One Arena in downtown Washington, with plans to turn that space into a sportsbook.

"You have a sportsbook in the arena, maybe we have 20,000 people to watch us play on the road. I'd like to bring 20,000 people in to watch football games and go to our partner site and eat and gamble. That would be a fantastic reengineering of what we can do with our building," Leonsis said. "I want to make the building the iconic, most important convener place for the community. This will

allow us to do it."

Wilpon said the ability to bet on sports at Citi Field, home of the Mets, would help attract younger fans to the ballpark, along with events featuring the New York Excelsior, his esports franchise in the Overwatch League.

Although the summit featured a discussion of problem gambling, there was little talk among the headlines about the potential drawbacks of closer ties among the gambling industry, teams and leagues. Gambling proponents see in-game mobile betting in particular as a huge untapped business opportunity, and that sort of betting can be particularly enticing to gambling addicts, said Keith Whyte, executive director of the National Council on Problem Gambling. "You can gamble on a thousand different events during a game, and at \$5 a bet that's a significant financial risk," said Whyte, who attended the conference. "You can have a fan with a gambling problem spending tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands of dollars quote-unquote 'supporting' their favorite club." □



## Hopman Cup out, ATP Cup in for overhaul of Australia swing

PERTH, Australia (AP) — The Hopman Cup international mixed team event is making way for the new ATP Cup at the start of the 2020 tennis season in Australia.

The International Tennis Federation on Thursday confirmed an early end to the licensing agreement with Tennis Australia for the Hopman Cup, which had been scheduled to continue in Perth until 2022.

The ITF issued a statement saying it still supported a combined men's and women's event after three decades of success, and was searching for a new venue.

"The ITF is committed to upholding the core values of the Hopman Cup in the future and is encouraged by the interest that has already

been expressed," ITF president David Haggerty said. "We will keep the Hopman Cup alive and look forward to successful future editions of this unique event."

Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic combined to win the last two Hopman Cup titles for Switzerland. Serena Williams and Steffi Graf have also been among the winners of the tournament which started in 1989.

The international season usually gets into full swing in Australia in the weeks leading into the first major of the year at Melbourne Park in January.

But the introduction of the ATP Cup has meant an overhaul in Australia for next year, with Perth joining Brisbane as a co-host of the group stage of the men's

team tournament and Sydney hosting the finals.

"The ATP Cup will launch the global tennis season for the men — this is their event ... and they've thrown their support behind it 100 percent," Tennis Australia chief executive Craig Tiley said. "Four of the top 12 male players, and eight of the top 24, will play in Perth, with 24 teams competing across three cities — Perth, Brisbane and Sydney."

The ATP Cup has 750 rankings points, \$22 million in prize money. It will feature two singles and a doubles match in each head-to-head between countries, and will run alongside the Brisbane International, which remains a season-opening event on the women's tour. □

## Putin calls on Russia to play by doping rules for Olympics

MOSCOW (AP) — Vladimir Putin wants Russian athletes and officials to play by anti-doping rules ahead of next year's Olympics.

In televised comments on Wednesday, the Russian president said efforts should be made "so that we don't give any pretext to those who use sport for political ends, to act against Russia's interests."

Russia's team was barred from last year's Winter Olympics for repeated doping violations, but 168 competitors from the country were allowed to compete as "Olympic Athletes from Russia."

Of those, two were later disqualified for doping, more than any other country.

The International Olympic Committee lifted its suspension of Russia immediately after the Pyeongchang Games. Putin said there should be no similar "restrictions" on any member of the Russian team at next year's Tokyo Olympics.

Putin didn't specify what potential restrictions he



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends his meeting with Lebanese President Michel Aoun in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

Associated Press

had in mind, though the Russian track federation remains suspended.

If that sanction isn't lifted by the IAAF, then only athletes who have been vetted and approved by a panel which examines their history of drug testing would be able to compete in Tokyo. That's currently keeping some top Russians like the former Olympic walk champion Elena Lash-

manova and Olympic high jump champion Anna Chicherova restricted to national competitions only. Both have served doping bans. Putin added that Russia had finished restructuring its anti-doping systems after World Anti-Doping Agency investigations revealed widespread doping and alleged government complicity, something Putin denies. □



Ashleigh Barty, of Australia, returns a volley to Anett Kontaveit, of Estonia, during the Miami Open tennis tournament, Thursday, March 28, 2019, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

## Barty endures delays, ousts Kontaveit to reach Miami final

By TIM REYNOLDS  
AP Sports Writer  
MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)

— Ashleigh Barty walked away from tennis about five years ago, saying she was basically burned out at 17.

She returned three years ago.

And now at 22, she's better than ever.

The 12th-seeded Barty has reached her first Miami Open final, enduring three rain delays on Thursday to oust 21st-seeded Anett Kontaveit 6-3, 6-3 in the first women's semifinal.

Next up in the biggest final of her singles career: Either second-seeded Simona Halep or fifth-seeded Karolina Pliskova, who were scheduled to play late Thursday night.

"Obviously, I've been doing the right things throughout the week to put be able to put myself in a position to play for a title," Barty said. "You have to go out there and embrace it."

That was also her approach to a very long — and very wet — day at Hard Rock Stadium.

Barty, who will rise to a career-best No. 9 in the world ranking next week, was to take the court for the semifinal against Kontaveit at 1 p.m. They didn't begin play until 2:08, and the delays were just getting started.

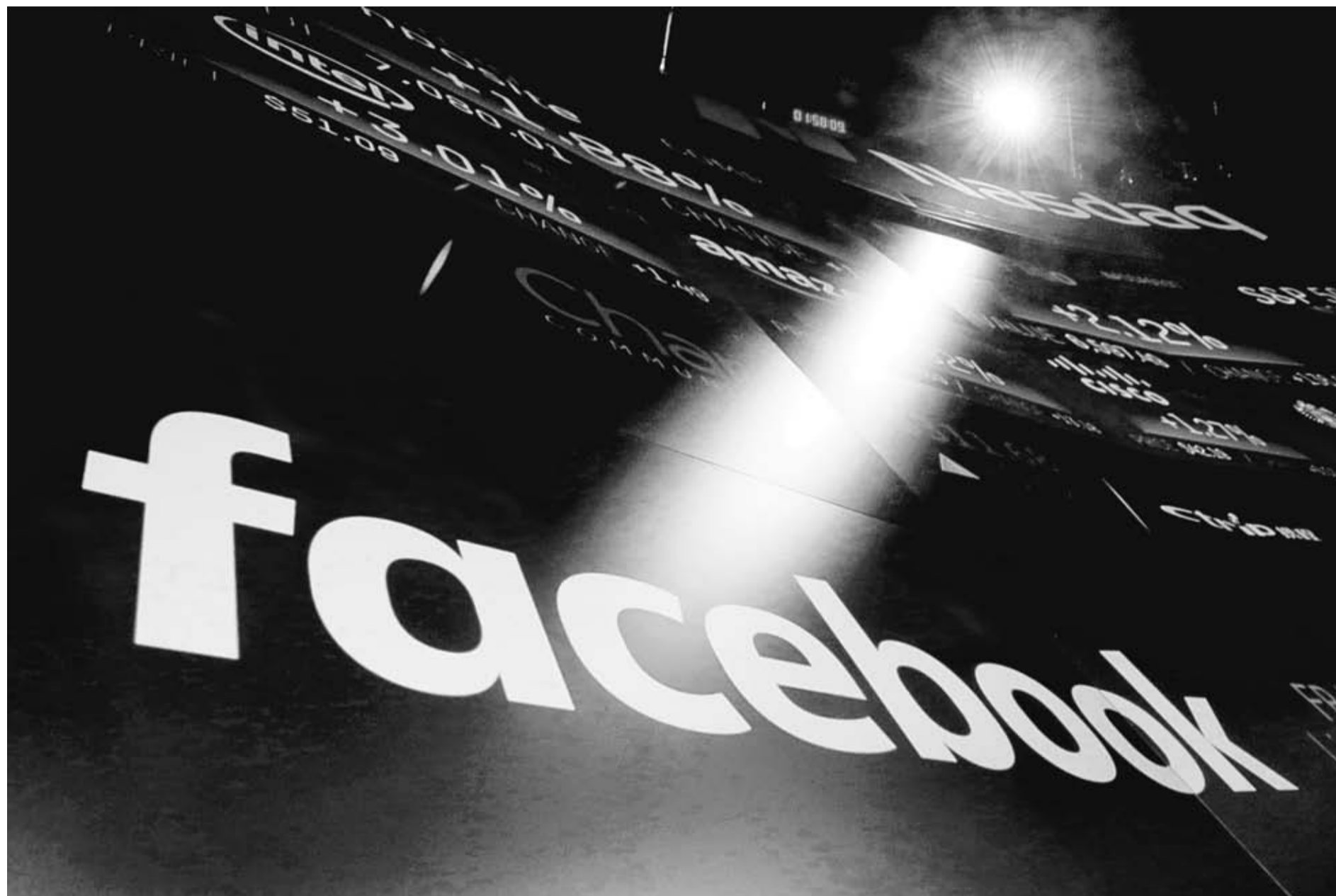
They got three games — six minutes of tennis — in before the first in-match delay stopped things for more than two hours. They got another game in before more rain arrived, prompting another two-hour delay.

At 7:32 p.m., finally, it ended. Kontaveit fended off one match point with a forehand drop shot, but was ousted by an ace on the following point. Barty was down 3-1 in the second, but won the final five games.

"Very long day," said Barty, who passed the time in the locker room by drinking coffee and watching golf. "But for me, it's an opportunity to come out and play another match. We can't control the weather." On the men's side, 20th-seeded Denis Shapovalov reached the semifinals after ousting 28th-seeded Frances Tiafoe 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-2 — the third time in four matches at this tournament that he rallied from a set down before prevailing. It also gives Canada two teens in the men's final four — the 19-year-old Shapovalov will face either Roger Federer or Kevin Anderson in the semifinals, while the other semifinal has 18-year-old Felix Auger-Aliassime against defending Miami champion John Isner. □



# Facebook charged with housing discrimination by HUD



By MAE ANDERSON and BARBARA ORTUTAY  
AP Technology Writers

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The federal government charged Facebook with high-tech housing discrimination Thursday for allegedly misusing its vaunted ability to deliver ads with surgical precision to certain groups of people and not others. The civil charges by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development could cost the social network millions of dollars in penalties. But more than that, they strike at the very business model that has made Facebook so rich, and raise questions of whether this could signal more regulatory pressure on the industry to come. HUD said Facebook's ad-targeting system is fostering discrimination by allowing landlords and real estate brokers to exclude certain people — for example, minorities, non-Christians, immigrants or residents of particular neighborhoods

— from seeing their ads for houses and apartments. "Facebook is discriminating against people based upon who they are and where they live," HUD Secretary Ben Carson said. "Using a computer to limit a person's housing choices can be just as discriminatory as slamming a door in someone's face." In a statement, Facebook expressed surprise over the charges, saying it has been working with HUD to address its concerns and has taken steps to prevent discrimination, including eliminating thousands of targeting options last year that could be misused by advertisers. Just last week, Facebook said it would overhaul its ad-targeting system to prevent discrimination not just in housing listings but in credit and employment ads as well, as part of a settlement with the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Fair Housing Alliance and other groups.

"We're disappointed by today's developments, but we'll continue working with civil rights experts on these issues," the company said. The charges were seen as more evidence that Facebook is in crosshairs of lawmakers, regulators and activists. It is already wrestling with several government investigations in the U.S. and Europe over its data and privacy practices. The technology at the heart of the clash with HUD is what has helped turned Facebook into a giant with annual revenue of close to \$56 billion. It can offer advertisers and groups great ability to direct messages to exactly the crowd they want to reach. HUD said Facebook is allowing advertisers to exclude people based on their neighborhood by drawing a red line around those areas on a map. The company was also accused of giving advertisers the option of showing ads only to men or only to

women. The agency also charged that Facebook allowed advertisers to exclude parents; those who are non-American-born; non-Christians; and those interested in Hispanic culture, "deaf culture," accessibility for the disabled, countries like Honduras or Somalia, or a variety of other topics. Advertisers were also able to exclude people based on ZIP code, to avoid showing ads to people in areas with large minority populations, HUD said. The case will be heard by an administration law judge unless HUD or Facebook decides to move it to federal court. "The nature of their business model is advertising and targeted advertising, so that is a slippery slope. That is their business model," said Dan Ives, an industry analyst with Wedbush Securities. "The government launched this missile and caught many in the industry by surprise."

Ives said the move may mean U.S. regulators are taking broader aim at the digital advertising market, not just Facebook. "This is a clear shot across the bow for Facebook and others," he said. "There is potentially more regulatory worries than maybe investors were fearing." Facebook is already under fire for allowing fake Russian accounts to buy ads targeting U.S. users to sow political discord during the 2016 presidential election. The company has also been criticized for allowing organizations to target groups of people identified as "Jew-haters" and Nazi sympathizers. HUD brought an initial complaint against Facebook in August. Facebook said in its statement that it was "eager to find a solution" but that HUD "insisted on access to sensitive information — like user data — without adequate safeguards." □



# US stocks waver as investors weigh company earnings

By ALEX VEIGA  
Associated Press

Stocks wavered between small gains and losses on Wall Street Thursday as an early rally lost some momentum.

Technology and industrial companies and retailers notched gains, while communications, energy and utilities stocks headed lower.

U.S. stocks are on track to finish the first quarter with solid gains, though investors remain anxious about the slowing global economy and worrisome signals coming from the bond market.

After falling sharply since Friday, the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose Thursday to 2.39 percent from 2.37 percent late Wednesday. That remained below the yield on the three-month Treasury bill, an unusual phenomenon that has preceded recessions in the past.

"The markets are looking closely at bond yields, and the fact that bond yields have eased a little bit is a reason for the stock mar-



In this March 18, 2019, file photo trader Timothy Nick works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

ket to breathe a little easier today," said Erik Davidson, chief investment officer at Wells Fargo Private Bank.

Traders also welcomed solid quarterly results from several companies, including watch maker Movado Group, Calvin Klein parent company PVH, yoga wear retailer Lululemon Athletica and consulting company

Accenture. Verizon led the slide in communications services stocks, shedding 3.6 percent.

Energy companies also fell as oil prices declined. President Donald Trump tweeted that it is "very important that OPEC increase the flow of Oil," adding that world markets are fragile and the price of oil is get-

ting "too high." Shares in Marathon Petroleum fell 2 percent. Investors also weighed new data showing the U.S. economy grew at a lower-than-expected rate in the fourth quarter.

Traders had their eye on several potential market-moving developments. The Chinese and U.S. trade negotiators were preparing

for the latest round of talks aimed at ending a tariff war between the world's two biggest economies. And in the United Kingdom, the countdown to Britain's departure from the EU loomed Friday.

In addition, investors were looking ahead to the next corporate earnings season, which kicks into gear in mid-April.

**KEEPING SCORE:** The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 17 points, or 0.1 percent, to 25,643 as of 12:53 p.m. Eastern Time. The S&P 500 gained 0.1 percent and the Nasdaq added 0.2 percent. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks picked up 0.1 percent.

Major indexes in Europe were mixed.

**SLOWING ECONOMY:** The Commerce Department said U.S. economic growth slowed sharply in the last three months of 2018 to an annual rate of just 2.2 percent, reflecting weakness in consumer spending, business investment, government spending and housing. □

# US mortgage rates post biggest drop in decade to 4.06 pct.

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Purchasing a home just became a lot cheaper, thanks mostly to the Federal Reserve's decision last week to put its interest rate hikes on hold for now.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday that the average 30-year fixed rate mortgage plunged to 4.06 percent this week, down from 4.28 percent last week. That's the steepest weekly drop in a decade.

Last week, Fed chairman Jerome Powell said the U.S. economy faces several headwinds, including slowing global growth, a trade war with China, and fading impacts from last year's tax cuts. Fed policymakers signaled they were unlikely to raise rates this year, after projecting two hikes in December.

Lower mortgage rates, slowing home price in-

creases and a pickup in the number of available homes appear to be rejuvenating home sales after a slowdown last year.

Sales of existing homes surged 11.8 percent in January, a sign that lower rates were encouraging more people to buy homes. The average 30-year rate reached 4.95 percent in November, following a series of rate hikes by the Fed. Mortgage costs are more directly influenced by the yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which also rose last year as many investors shifted money into stocks. Stock market indexes rose at a healthy pace until last fall.

The yield on the 10-year note has fallen sharply since last year, when it touched 3.21 percent in November. On Thursday it fell to 2.39 percent in mid-day trading. Potential buyers have rushed to take advantage

of the cheaper borrowing costs. An index measuring applications for mortgage loans jumped 9 percent last week, the Mortgage Bankers Association said. Fewer people signed con-

tracting a bit after January's big jump. But economists expect sales will continue to improve this year after last year's slowdown.

Hiring has been steady in recent months and aver-

strengthening in the wake of the decline in mortgage rates, we look for better sales in the second quarter," said Ian Shepherson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics. □



In this Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019 photo a recently constructed home is surrounded by snow in Natick, Mass.

Associated Press

tracts to buy homes in February compared with the previous month, suggesting home sales will cool

age pay growth has accelerated, making a home purchase more affordable. "With mortgage demand

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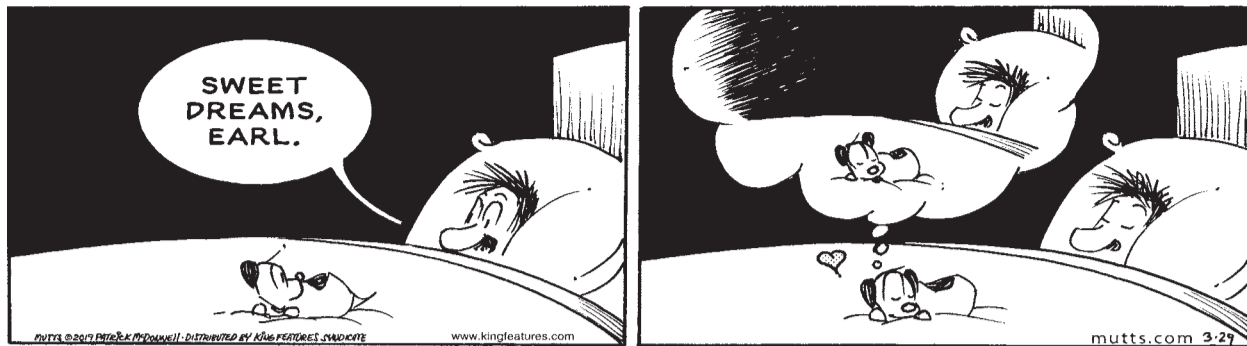
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**Blondie**



**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

	4							3
3		1					8	2
	6			5			9	
			3		2			
		7				4		
			4		9			
	5			6			4	
4		2					1	5
	9						7	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

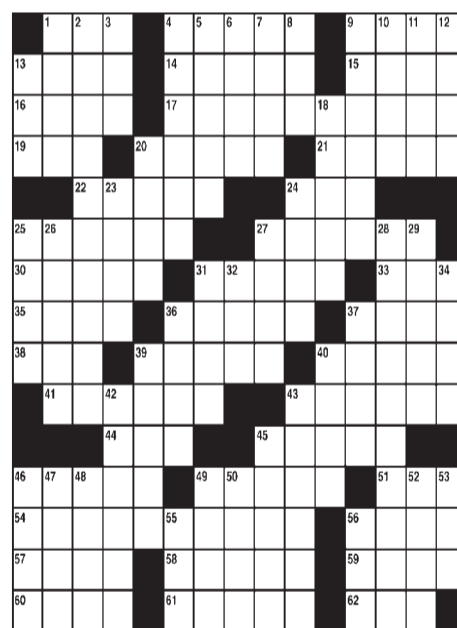
1	4	5	2	3	7	6	9	8
9	7	2	1	8	6	4	3	5
6	8	3	4	9	5	7	2	1
5	1	8	3	7	4	2	6	9
4	9	6	8	5	2	1	7	3
2	3	7	6	1	9	8	5	4
3	2	9	7	4	1	5	8	6
8	6	4	5	2	3	9	1	7
7	5	1	9	6	8	3	4	2

**ACROSS**

- 1 Wesson product
- 4 \_\_\_ in; inundated by
- 9 Weather forecast
- 13 Albacore or bluefin
- 14 Paper cup maker
- 15 Bee's home
- 16 Plays a role
- 17 Burned out
- 19 \_\_\_ Beta Kappa
- 20 Gwynne & Savage
- 21 Looks searchingly
- 22 Internal spies
- 24 Morning moisture
- 25 \_\_\_ cats & dogs; poured
- 27 Prison official
- 30 \_\_\_ up; tallied
- 31 Public square
- 33 Just purchased
- 35 Farrow & Kirshner
- 36 Member of the wedding party
- 37 E followers
- 38 Cauldron
- 39 Wear away
- 40 Stockpile
- 41 Made airtight
- 43 Language
- 44 Disabled car's need
- 45 Social division
- 46 "\_\_\_ John B"; Beach Boys hit
- 49 Yearn for
- 51 Grad. degree
- 54 Pen name
- 56 Author Urs
- 57 Ardent
- 58 Very willing
- 59 \_\_\_ 500; annual race
- 60 \_\_\_ it; understands
- 61 Cicely or Mike
- 62 Pig's home

**DOWN**

- 1 Elbow-bumper's cry
- 2 Frighten
- 3 \_\_\_ Cruces, NM
- 4 Worshipped
- 5 Married women
- 6 Fired from a job
- 7 Gentlemen
- 8 Chop down
- 9 Clever
- 10 Athletic shoe brand
- 11 Think \_\_\_; ponder
- 12 Ties the knot
- 13 Faucet
- 18 "Falstaff" or "Tosca"
- 20 Got away
- 23 Singles
- 24 Stupor
- 25 Skateboarder's incline
- 26 Adieu in Argentina
- 27 Walk in ankle-deep water
- 28 Betrothal
- 29 India's first Prime Minister
- 31 Poke at
- 32 Tupperware cover
- 34 Broad
- 36 Make tea
- 37 Helvetica or Times New Roman
- 39 Marry secretly



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/29/19

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**

T	I	F	F	P	E	O	N	S	S	C	O	T
E	L	E	E	A	N	N	I	E	H	O	M	E
L	I	M	E	R	E	E	X	A	M	I	N	E
L	E	I	J	A	M	S	O	V	E	N	S	
			N	E	E	D			T	O	E	
O	P	I	A	T	E		H	O	R	R	O	R
W	A	N	T	S		T	H	E	M	E	V	A
N	C	I	S		F	O	O	L	S		G	E
S	E	T		P	A	G	E	D		M	A	R
			D			N	A	M	O		V	O
						A	R	E		G	A	R
T	R	O	U	T		R	I	L	E		A	R
R	I	N	G	S		A	B	E	L	L		T
I	T	C	H		L	A	D	L	E		U	G
M	E	E	T		S	A	S	S		G	E	E

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3/29/19

- 40 Rubber tube
- 42 Quarreling
- 43 Saloon
- 45 Brief part for a big actor
- 46 Unexpected obstacle
- 47 More than infatuation
- 48 Fail to include
- 49 Play-Doh, e.g.
- 50 Carpets
- 52 Corpse
- 53 \_\_\_ day now; soon
- 55 Teacher's favorite
- 56 Fleur-de-...



# Classifieds

## Halley Time Travel

### Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum Weeks  
1 BR Ocean View \$12 K  
2 BR Ocean View \$17 K  
2 BR Ocean Front \$28 K

### Marriott Surf Club

Platinum  
2 BR Garden View \$15 K  
2 BR Ocean View \$16 K  
2 BR Ocean Side \$17 K  
2 BR Ocean Front \$27 K  
3 BR Ocean View \$27 K

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4 BR , 3 bath , swimming pool  
Janana  
3 BR , 2 bath , 1 apartment  
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### Dutch Village

studio wk # 12 & 13  
ground floor deluxe  
35 weeks remain \$10,000 each

### Aruba Divi Phoenix

2 BR PH WK 11 &12  
building 9 7th floor  
33 weeks remain \$25 K each  
1 BR WK 11  
building 7 3rd floor  
34 weeks remain \$15 K

### La Cabana Beach and Casino

Thursday check in  
1 BR and Studio WK # 11,12,13  
2sd floor garden view  
1 BR \$8000, studio \$7000

### Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK #11  
3rd floor B 3 \$9000  
26 weeks remain  
Studio wk # 11  
ground floor B 4 \$7500  
30 weeks remain

### Divi Village

Building C elevator  
2 BR wk 13 \$14 K  
3rd floor with 29/8 accelerated  
weeks remain  
1 BR WK # 14 \$7.5 K  
1st floor with 16 weeks remain

### La Cabana Beach and Casino

Sunday Check in  
1 BR wk 11 & 12 \$18 K both  
4th floor pool/ocean view  
Friday check in  
1 BR WK # 12  
4 th floor \$ 9000  
Garden/ocean view

### CPV

Building A  
1 BR wk 13 and 14  
\$6000 each

### La Cabana Beach & Casino

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3 rd floor Pool/Ocean View  
Sunday check in : \$9000 each

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GV \$6k OV \$7k  
3BEDRM \$12500

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Oceanside \$16k  
Oceanview \$15k  
3BEDROM \$26k  
\*WK. 51 OV \$39k  
\*WK 52 OV \$46k  
\* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

### Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

#### GOLD Season

2B Oceanfront \$14k  
2B OV \$8000  
1 Bed \$4000  
1 Bed Oceanfront \$8500

#### PLATINUM Season

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2B Oceanfront \$24k  
1B OV \$10k

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RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

### Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

### Editor in Chief

Linda Reijnders  
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)  
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

### Editors

Richard Brooks  
Jeancarlo Trinidad

### Sales

Linda Reijnders  
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)  
Sulaika Croes

### Classifieds

Rachelle Danje  
(rachelle.danje@cspnv.com)

### Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

### Social / Website

Cristian Soto Garcia  
Pilar Flores  
Juan Luis Pinto

### Columnists

Anthony Croes  
Joris Zantvoort  
Louedska Maduro  
Shanella Pantophlet  
Steve Frances  
Thais Franken

Weststraat 22  
T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com  
W: www.arubatoday.com  
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### San Nicolas

IMSAN 24 Hours

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### San Nicolas:

San Lucas Tel. 584 5119

## OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

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March 30  
Crown Princess  
Azamara Journey

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Narcotics Anonymous  
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Women in Difficulties  
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# U.S. begins organ transplants from living donors who have HIV

By LAURAN NEERGAARD  
AP Medical Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Surgeons in Baltimore have performed what's thought to be the world's first kidney transplant from a living donor with HIV, a milestone for people with the AIDS virus — and one that could free up space on the transplant waiting list for everyone. Nina Martinez of Atlanta traveled to Johns Hopkins University to donate a kidney to an HIV-positive stranger, saying she "wanted to make a difference in somebody else's life" and counter the stigma that too often still surrounds HIV infection.

Many people think "somebody with HIV is supposed to look sick," Martinez, 35, told The Associated Press before the operation. "It's a powerful statement to show somebody like myself who's healthy enough to be a living organ donor." At a news conference Thursday, Martinez said she was "feeling good" and hopes she's opened doors for other would-be donors. "To be able to leave this kind of medical legacy for me was quite important," she said.

The recipient of Martinez's



In this image made from video provided by Johns Hopkins Medicine, Nina Martinez of Atlanta is wheeled into a Baltimore operating room to become who is thought to be the world's first kidney transplant living donor with HIV, on Monday, March 25, 2019.

Associated Press

kidney, who chose to remain anonymous, also is recovering well, Hopkins said. "Here's a disease that in the past was a death sentence and now has been so well controlled that it offers people with that disease an opportunity to save somebody else," said Dr. Dorry Segev, a Hopkins surgeon who pushed for the HIV Organ Policy Equity, or HOPE, Act that lifted a 25-

year U.S. ban on transplants between people with HIV. There's no count of how many HIV-positive patients are among the 113,000 people on the nation's waiting list for an organ transplant. HIV-positive patients can receive transplants from HIV-negative donors just like anyone else. Only in the last few years, spurred by some pioneering operations in South Af-

rica, have doctors begun transplanting organs from deceased donors with HIV into patients who also have the virus, organs that once would have been thrown away. Since 2016, 116 such kidney and liver transplants have been performed in the U.S. as part of a research study, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing, or UNOS, which over-

sees the transplant system. One question is whether receiving an organ from someone with a different strain of HIV than their own poses any risks, but so far there have been no safety problems, said UNOS chief medical officer Dr. David Klassen.

Hopkins' Segev said Monday's kidney transplant was a world first. Doctors had hesitated to allow people still living with HIV to donate because of concern that their remaining kidney would be at risk of damage from the virus or older medications used to treat it. But newer anti-HIV medications are safer and more effective, Segev said. His team recently studied the kidney health of 40,000 HIV-positive people and concluded that those with well-controlled HIV and no other kidney-harming ailments like high blood pressure should face the same risks from living donation as someone without HIV.

"There are potentially tens of thousands of people living with HIV right now who could be living kidney donors," said Segev, who has advised some other hospitals considering the approach. □



A shadow of Milica Kesler, curator and archivist is cast onto a poster of Nikola Tesla at the Nikola Tesla museum in Belgrade, Serbia, Thursday, March 7, 2019.

Associated Press

## 2 letters by inventor Nikola Tesla surface in Serbia

By JOVANA GEC  
Associated Press

**BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)** — A culture society in Serbia made public this month two letters that they say were written by late 19th- and early 20th-century inventor and electricity pioneer Nikola Tesla. The Adligat group told The Associated Press they recently obtained the letters from a collector and verified their authenticity with multiple sources. Dated Dec. 28, 1934 and Jan. 12, 1935, the letters were sent to the Yugoslav consul in the United States at the time, Radoje Jankovic. "This is the first time that public has full and free ac-

cess to this documentation," said Viktor Lazic, from Adligat. He explained that the letters had been known to exist but could not be traced for around 20 years. Written in Cyrillic alphabet, the letters refer to Tesla's relations with another prominent scientist of Serb origin, Mihajlo Pupin, Lazic said. Tesla is best known for developing the alternating current that helped safely distribute electricity at great distances, including from the hydro-electric plant at Niagara Falls in the mid-1890s. He experimented with X-ray and radio technology, working in rivalry with Thomas Edison. Car manufacturer Tesla is

named after him. An ethnic Serb born in 1856 in the Austrian Empire in present-day Croatia, Tesla spent most of his life abroad, working in Budapest and Paris before emigrating to the U.S. in 1884. In Belgrade, the Tesla Museum honors the scientist's legacy, including a vast array of personal items, tens of thousands of documents and awards. Curator Milica Kesler said the museum's archives include the drafts of the recently-publicized letters. "The only difference is that they (drafts) were written in pencil" and contain Tesla's remarks and notes, Kesler said. □

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# To glam or not to glam soon after giving birth

By LEANNE ITALIE  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — As Danielle Bayard Jackson was putting together her birthing team, she made sure to include a doula, all the details she wanted taken care of during delivery and how bright the lights should be for ambiance.

She passed on the makeup artist.

"I even looked up various prices, but something about that felt frivolous," said Jackson, who lives in Tampa, Florida. "I decided I didn't want to worry about that after such a monumental moment."

Therein lies the debate centered on pregnant women in today's social media-saturated world: to glam or not to glam soon after a whole human being exits your body, or do as Seattle-area mom Robin Rucinsky did by the time baby No. 4 rolled around:

"I didn't pack a single cosmetic. I brought a toothbrush and chapstick."

With the Kate Middleton postpartum hair blowout (three times!) fresh in our minds and another royal birth upcoming, the debate over perfection during labor and just hours after giving birth looms large for some women.

"I'll tell you who it's not fun to be pregnant at the exact same time as. Meghan Markle," Amy Schumer, suffering from chronic nausea throughout her pregnancy, cracked during her new Netflix comedy special. "She's out there in, like, 6-inch heels, adorable outfits."

While we won't know whether Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, will follow in the footsteps of Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, when it comes to postpartum perfection, we have an inkling Meghan will at least slap on some makeup as she introduces the latest royal to the world next month.

And when she does, anti-glamers will take notice. "I think that a mother who has just given birth is beautiful — with disheveled hair, with smeared or no make-



This March 8, 2019 file photo shows Britain's Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, leaving King's College after joining a panel discussion to mark International Women's Day in London.

Associated Press

up, with top wide open for skin-to-skin contact and breastfeeding," said Kirsten Brunner, a perinatal counselor in Austin, Texas. "I love the trend in birth photography of capturing the reality of childbirth and the postpartum experience. I encourage my clients to let go of all pressure to get back to normal as soon as possible."

But, no judgments of those who choose to spruce up. With some hospitals providing in-house spa services and plenty of women hiring specialists for hair, makeup

and nails, the argument over what makes a postpartum mom feel best cuts both ways.

For Julien Farel's wife, it meant pulling her look together to greet visitors — including her Old World British grandmother — after the arrivals of their two children.

Farel owns the Julien Farel Restore Salon and Spa inside the Loews Regency Hotel on New York's swanky Park Avenue. He's been providing and arranging for in-hospital services for women giving birth since

2001, with prices now ranging from \$320 for a blow out, makeup or manicure to \$2,000 an hour for all three at the highest level of design and expertise.

"Mostly they're looking for those three things, makeup, nails and blow dry," he said. "These people care so much about their appearance. You have other people with much more money who don't care. It's about how you've been raised to look when you have people over."

Farel has between 10 and 15 in-hospital pregnancy

clients a month among his usual customers.

Donna Yip, 38, a Manhattan attorney, used one of Farel's stylists, Jackson Simmonds, in the delivery room for the births of both her children, the first in 2013 and the second in 2015. He massaged her head, blew out and styled her hair and did her makeup.

"He stepped out during the pushing part," Yip laughed. "I think for everyone, they have what makes them feel good and if it makes you feel good and brings a little bit of normalcy into an exciting but also a hectic and anxious period of your life, you should go for it."

Brenda Kosciuk, outside Scranton, Pennsylvania, took matters into her own hands for the birth of her second child, now 3.

"Everyone wants that perfect social media photo that does NOT at all show the reality of what we just endured," she said. "We see it everywhere. On social media and on magazine covers. With my second child, before leaving for the hospital, I applied my makeup carefully because with my first child I didn't have that perfect 'after' photo and I wanted it. The reality is that after 60 minutes of pushing, I was sweaty, red-faced and my mascara had melted down my face. □"

## Motown Museum to display clothing worn by singer Marvin Gaye

**DETROIT (AP)** — Clothing worn by singer Marvin Gaye will go on display at the Motown Museum in Detroit as part of the music label's 60th anniversary celebration.

The museum said Thursday that the items include a knit cap and military-style jacket and pants. Pictures of them will be posted on Facebook Friday and displayed at the museum beginning Saturday through the end of April.

Earlier this year, the mu-

seum said it would display several items, including documents that show label founder Berry Gordy Jr.'s repayment of the \$800 family loan that helped launch the company with a recording in 1959.

The Motown Museum is located where Gordy launched his music empire. The Supremes, Stevie Wonder, the Miracles and other performers recorded hits there before Motown moved in 1972 to California. □



In this Jan. 17, 1983, file photo, singer-songwriter Marvin Gaye, winner of Favorite Soul/R&B Single, "Sexual Healing," attends the American Music Awards in Los Angeles.

Associated Press



# A symphony of debauchery in 'The Beach Bum'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**  
Associated Press

Matthew McConaughey is at his dirt bag finest as a good-time Charlie stoner-poet named Moondog in Harmony Korine's "The Beach Bum," a bizarre and transfixing carnival of vulgarity and vice. In some ways it's the part he was born to play. Whether or not that's a good thing for him, or unsuspecting audiences, is unclear, but

McConaughey gives and bares (nearly) all for this film. And it mostly works. Korine, with the help of his innately charismatic star and talented cinematographer Benoit Debie, nearly pulls off an incredible trick having made a flagrant and aggressively R-rated celebration of South Florida hedonism and depravity that's also kind of funny and even, sometimes, oddly sweet and charming.



This image released by Neon shows Matthew McConaughey, left, and Snoop Dogg in a scene from "The Beach Bum."

Associated Press

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<p><b>MARCH 28-APRIL 3</b></p>	
<p><b>NEW THIS WEEK!</b></p>	<p>COLIN FARRELL   MICHAEL KEATON Disney <b>DUMBO</b> SPANISH MON-THU 3:40   6:05   8:30 FRI 3:40   6:05   8:30   10:55 SAT 1:15   3:40   6:05   8:30   10:55 SUN 1:15   3:40   6:05   8:30</p>
	<p>CXC WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-FRI 4:10   6:35   9:00 SAT-SUN 1:50   4:10   6:35   9:00</p>
	<p>JORGE PABÓN   FAUSTO MATA <b>LOS DOMIRRUENOS 2</b> SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES MON-THU 4:50   7:05   9:20 FRI 4:50   7:05   9:20   11:35 SAT 2:35   4:50   7:05   9:20   11:35 SUN 2:35   4:50   7:05   9:20</p>
	<p>LUPITA NYONG'O   WINSTON DUKE <b>Us</b> MON-THU 5:20   7:50 FRI 5:20   7:50   10:20 SAT 2:50   5:20   7:50   10:20 SUN 2:50   5:20   7:50</p>
<p><b>ALSO SHOWING!</b></p>	<p>BRIE LARSON   SAMUEL L. JACKSON MARVEL <b>CAPTAIN MARVEL</b> WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-THU 4:45   7:25 FRI 4:45   7:25   10:10 SAT 2:05   4:45   7:25   10:10 SUN 2:05   4:45   7:25</p>
	<p>MON-FRI 3:50   6:30   9:15 SAT-SUN 1:10   3:50   6:30   9:15</p>
	<p>BRIANNA DENSKI   JENNIFER GARNER <b>WONDER PARK</b> MON-THU 3:45   5:40   7:35 FRI-SAT 1:50   3:45   5:40   7:35</p>
	<p>TYLER PERRY   CASSI DAVIS <b>A MADEA FAMILY FUNERAL</b> MON-SUN 9:30</p>
<p>OPENING APRIL 4: SHAZAMI, PET SEMATARY, MISSING LINK, HELLBOY, TRIPLE THREAT</p>	
<p>THE MAGIC OF THE MOVIES ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE</p>	

It's hard not to stress just how strange a movie "The Beach Bum" is, although anyone familiar with Korine's other films, "Spring Breakers" probably being the most mainstream of the batch, won't be all that surprised. He has set this odyssey in and around Miami and the Florida Keys, which have never looked more neon, rotted or depraved. Moondog is introduced in resplendent glory in the Keys, where the cannabis and women are as plentiful as ocean water and there for the taking, and the bras and tops scarce. He is tanned to a crisp; with a mop of fried, shaggy blond locks framing his nearly unrecognizable face. At times you even forget there's a handsome actor underneath the tacky wrap-around sunglasses. He is a giggling burnout supreme with an ever-present PBR tallboy, who you suspect might be homeless, or at least veering to-

ward that state. Suffice it to say, it comes as a bit of a surprise to learn that he has a wife, Minnie (Isla Fisher), a grown daughter, Heather (Stefania LaVie Owen) and a waterfront mansion back in Miami. "I forgot how rich we are," Moondog opines to Minnie, who is the walking embodiment of trashy affluence. She too is having an affair with a wealthy weed dealer named Lingerie (Snoop Dogg). But for some reason she loves her loser husband. "He's from another dimension," Minnie coos, as an apparent way of explaining away all of his unconventional ways. He's a genius, we're told, and a celebrated poet whose agent (played by a very over-the-top Jonah Hill) is itching for a follow-up. When things go awry and he loses everything, it's his typewriter that he brings along with him in a silky white sack that he slings casually over his shoulder.

The success of the whole endeavor might come down to exactly how on board you are with Moondog's pursuit of fun, which starts to seriously curdle during an overextended segment with Zac Efron, who plays a deviant who Moondog goes on an escape-from-rehab bender with. The destruction and havoc he incites starts to feel less like comedy and more like a horror movie. By the time you get to meet Martin Lawrence's Captain Wack, Moondog and the film have truly checked out of planet Earth and settled entirely on this other dimension. There is a lot of fun to be had living in Moondog's world for 95 minutes, and the film goes down suspiciously easy for something so ugly and amoral. But it's also no wonder why once you're out of the intoxicating haze of Korine's milieu that a bad taste starts to form. □

## 'Fake' Botticelli work turns out to be from artist's studio

Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Art experts in Britain have discovered that a painting long thought to be a fake Sandro Botticelli in fact came from the master's own Florence workshop. After stripping back a century of yellowing varnish and surface dirt, conservators confirmed Thursday that "Madonna Of The Pomegranate" — a smaller version of the famous 1487

painting in Florence's Uffizi Gallery — was "stylistically too similar to be an imitation." The painting had been assumed to be a later copy because it's different to the original in detail, and the thick yellow varnish had concealed the quality of the vivid reds, blues and golds. But Rachel Turnbull, a senior conservator at the charity English Heritage, which

cares for hundreds of historic sites, said that X-ray and infrared tests showed an under-drawing and changes to the composition that's uncommon in imitations. "It was of the right period, it was technically correct and it was painted on poplar, a material commonly used at the time," she said. It will go on display in Ranger's House, a Georgian villa in southeastern London, from April 1. □



## With 'Black Panther' and now 'Us,' Winston Duke is on a roll

By LINDSEY BAHR

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Winston Duke went from relative obscurity to being a household name with his first film and he wasn't even the lead, or second or third performer listed for that matter. That the first film in question was "Black Panther" didn't hurt, but that Duke still managed to stand out as rival Wakandan leader M'Baku amid such star power and spectacle is all the more impressive.

But how do you follow that kind of breakout? For Duke, it meant looking for something completely different. The Tobago-born, U.S.-raised Yale master of fine arts grad had been toiling in television for years to get this sort of chance, and he was not going to allow anyone to pigeonhole him.

"It was absolutely nothing but potential at that point," Duke, 32, said of his raised profile following "Black Panther." "I was really itching for another job. I wanted something that would test me but not be the same as how I was represented in 'Black Panther.' ...I know the propensity for saying, 'Oh he's this kind of action guy. He's this one thing.' That's when he read the



This March 12, 2019 photo shows Winston Duke, a cast member in the film "Us," posing at the The London West Hollywood in West Hollywood, Calif.

Associated Press

script for "Us," Jordan Peele's follow-up to "Get Out," about a family who encounters murderous doppelgangers, and he knew it was the perfect fit. "I said, 'Oh my goodness, this is everything,'" Duke said.

It wasn't just that he'd be getting to show a different side of himself as an actor. He'd actually be playing two roles, the all-American every-dad Gabe Wilson

and his doppelganger Abraham. Plus, he'd be getting to work with Peele, who was hot off of "Get Out."

"Winston was on this perfect level," Peele said. "He was by no means an unknown actor, but the range that he has was untapped, at least in how we knew him. That presented this opportunity to continue to break his talent on the world in a perfect way."

The challenge of playing two roles got Duke's mind spinning about big themes of privilege, duality, the patriarchy and America.

"Gabe is the perfect product of the American dream. He probably believes that if you work hard enough you can get anything. You can pull yourself up by your bootstraps and work hard. He's that guy," Duke said. "Abraham is the American nightmare."

Duke is a formidable presence on screen and off, clocking in at around 6'5". That physicality helped inform both the brute intimidation of playing someone like Abraham and the comedic side of Gabe, although Peele said sometimes that came unintentionally.

"There are some laughs where he's being himself and I don't think he realized how funny it was," Peele said. "Best example is when he gets into this little bed in one scene and it lasts about 30 seconds of him just getting ready, he thinks he's going to get some. And the first time he did it I was just cracking up. The bed was creaking and he's way too big for it. I don't think he was trying to be funny, but I'm like, 'Dude, this is the best, do it even longer. Do it more.'"

Gabe Wilson has a certain "sitcom dad" energy to him that Duke said was inspired by characters like Carl Winslow of "Family Matters" and Homer Simpson. He also suspects Peele wrote a bit of himself into the character. But the director and his star have differing opinions on that.

"He claims that a lot was based on me," Peele said. "But I can tell you a lot of it

## Lion Babe creates easy-listening album 'Cosmic Wind'

By RAGAN CLARK

Lion Babe, "Cosmic Wind" (Interscope Records)

There's no doubt that Lion Babe has created a collection of beat-driven, catchy songs in the duo's sophomore album "Cosmic Wind."

The album doesn't push too many boundaries with the collection of R&B tunes, rooted in pop and electronic influences, but there is a certain groove to the record that's hard not to like.

Jillian Hervey's strong, soulful vocals shine through, accompanied by the production influence of Lucas Goodman, who plays with genre intersection without falling too deep into the

experimental world of alternative R&B.

The first-released single, "Western World," fits the album's penchant for songs suited for the dance floor, making a play on Pet Shop Boys' "West End Girls." Hervey's sultry vocals coo through a tambourine-accented beat as she sings of culture's incessant desire to never slow down: "In a Western town, a Western world/ So hard to find some peace." Wu-Tang Clan's Raekwon brings the song to a close with a guest verse, before Hervey rejoins with the chorus.

"Anyway You Want To" is simple lyrically, with a fat, fuzzy guitar creating a slow jam. "Reminisce" shows off

Hervey's hip-hop chops, while "Hit the Ceiling" shows off her range. With a voice commonly compared to Erykah Badu, Hervey's vocals are captivating. She and Goodman prove in their album of three-minute grooves that they know how to create a catchy track.

While "Cosmic Wind" makes good dance floor music, it's slightly marred by the record's inability to create knock-out singles. Having few standout moments on the album, songs struggle to distinguish themselves from one another, at times running together. Still, Lion Babe created a feel-good record that is certain to make the listener move. □



This cover image released by Interscope Records shows "Cosmic Wind" by Lion Babe.

Associated Press



# Israeli researchers say Sodom salt cave is world's longest

By ILAN BEN ZION  
Associated Press

**MOUNT SODOM, ISRAEL (AP)** — Israeli researchers said Thursday they have surveyed what they now believe to be the world's longest salt cave, a network of twisting passages at the southern tip of the Dead Sea.

A recently completed survey of the Malham Cave determined the labyrinthine cavern stretches more than 10 kilometers (6 miles) in length. That puts it well ahead of Iran's Namakdan Cave, previously thought to be the longest salt cave.

The survey was conducted by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a collection of Israeli, Bulgarian and international volunteers.

Boaz Langford, a researcher at the university's Caves Research Center, and Antoniya Vlaykova, a Bulgarian cave explorer from the European Speleological Federation, headed the expedition.

"What's unique about this cave, as opposed to other salt caves in the world, is that it's the longest in the world," Langford said, resting in a chamber of the cave dubbed the "Wedding Hall" for its salt stalactites.

Langford and Vlaykova said they plan to publish the complete map of the cave in a professional publication in the coming months.

There is no official record for the longest salt cave, and such designations are gen-



This Wednesday, March 27, 2019 photo, shows the entrance of the Malham Cave at the Dead Sea in Israel.

Associated Press

erally decided by consensus among cave researchers after an underground chamber is mapped and published.

Namakdan, which is about 6 kilometers (4 miles) in length, was identified as the longest salt cave after a study by Czech and Iranian scientists in 2006.

Salt caves are unusual and rare geological features. Because salt is highly water soluble, large salt deposits do not normally survive long on the surface. Only a handful of salt caves are larger than a kilometer (half a mile) in length. Salt caves tend to only exist in highly arid regions, like the area around the Dead Sea, which is located at the lowest point on earth and is too salty to support animal life.

The Dead Sea and Mount Sodom were formed by tectonic activity, the shifting of the Earth's plates at the northern end of the 6,000-kilometer (4,000-mile) Afro-Arabian Rift Valley. Over millions of years, successive flooding of the deep depression lay down thick layers of salt.

"The salt layers are squeezed out from the subsurface, where they are deposited a few kilometers underground, and while being squeezed out they form a mountain, which is rising still today, at a rate of about one centimeter per year," said Amos Frumkin, a Hebrew University geologist who has studied the cave for decades.

The Malham Cave's main outlet yawns not far from a salt pillar named "Lot's wife," after the biblical character who was petrified for looking back at the destruction of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. On the mountainside above, Langford, Vlaykova and their colleagues have identified at least 19 openings where seasonal floods have percolated through Mount Sodom's rock salt to form the cave.

Yoav Negev, founder of the Israeli Cave Explorers Club, said that over two years, his group and a total of 80 volunteers from nine countries spent around 1,500 work-

days measuring and mapping the cavern's recesses. "It's above and beyond what we expected," he said.

Efraim Cohen, one of the Hebrew University cave explorers, described the process of locating the cave's entrances from the surface, rappelling down into surface shafts, squeezing through tight passages, and measuring each of the cavern's serpentine branches with lasers. Despite the difficult environment, he said the cave's splendor makes it worth it. "All the stalagmites and stalactites, their beauty, their color — they're really white, they're shining, they're amazing," Cohen said.

Radiocarbon dating of

wood fragments found inside the cave have helped date its formation to around 7,000 years ago, making it extremely young by speleological standards. "The reason why it's so young is because it's made of salt," Frumkin explained. "Limestone caves are much slower to form. They are usually much older. But this one is developing very fast so it's one of the youngest caves in the world."

Frumkin said that studying the cave's formation has provided researchers with information about the climate of the region over the past 7,000 years, and how that has affected the emergence of civilization. Jericho, one of world's first cities and an epicenter for the development of agriculture, is around 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of the Malham Cave.

"Because the salt is so soluble, that means that every change in the climate leaves its mark in the cave," Frumkin said. "If there is more water, more rainfall, the cave is enlarged, and Dead Sea level changes, and this makes a huge difference in the morphology of the cave."

Although the scientists have completed their study, there is still more of the cave that is undiscovered, he said.

"There are some more parts, especially upper levels, which have not been surveyed yet because they are difficult to reach," Frumkin said. □



In this Wednesday, March 27, 2019 photo, Yoav Negev, and Boaz Langford, researchers at the Israel Cave Research Center of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, use their torch light to examine salt stalactites hanging from the ceiling in the Malham Cave at the Dead Sea in Israel.

Associated Press



In this Wednesday, March 27, 2019 photo, Yoav Negev, and Boaz Langford, researchers at the Israel Cave Research Center of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, examine salt stalactites hanging from the ceiling in the Malham Cave at the Dead Sea in Israel.

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